



Alaska Department of
Education & Early Development

March 2026 CLSD 2024: Technical Assistance & Updates

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Alaska Reads
#akreads

CLSD 2024: Technical Assistance & Updates

Monthly News From Your AK Reads Team

March 2026

GMS Update

General Information

CLSD Reimbursements:

Quarterly reimbursements are due 30 days after the end of each quarter: October 31, January 31, April 30, and July 31. Final expenditure reports are due July 31 for State General Fund funding and August 15 for federal funding.

Announcements

Save the Dates



TRAVEL GRANT INFORMATION:

- If your district would like to send additional participants to the CLSD Spring Convening and/or the Alaska Science of Reading Symposium, and you need additional funds to support registration and travel, please complete the [Travel Grant Request Form](#) at your earliest convenience.

Additional funds are still available apply ASAP!

The CLSD Spring Convening is a requirement for all subgrantees, and we encourage you to bring a team to this workshop. The day will include a keynote by Dr. Pam Kastner, a variety of content-specific micro-presentations, and grant-specific technical assistance sessions, all led by guest presenters and experts in the field of evidence-based reading instruction and leadership.

CLSD SPRING CONVENING - AT A GLANCE:

- **What and Who:** A highly interactive day of professional learning focused on supporting CLSD subgrant teams, including CLSD project leads, district/school leaders, key CLSD teachers, and other CLSD support staff
- **When:** Thursday, April 30th | 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Includes working lunch)
- **Where:** Dena'ina Civic & Convention Center (Level 2) | Anchorage, AK

REGISTRATION LINKS:

- **CLSD Grant Convening Registration:** bit.ly/clsd-reg-apr26
 - Please submit *one* Google Form for your district
 - **Due by Friday, April 10**
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Continuing the Climb: Evidence, Effort, Impact



Dena'ina Civic & Convention Center
Build your team and register today!

Anchorage, Alaska

**2026 ALASKA
SCIENCE OF
READING
SYMPOSIUM**
May 1 - 3, 2026



Registration is open!

Join us for the 2026 Alaska Science of Reading Symposium, slated for May 1-3 at the Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center in Anchorage.

This year's line-up of speakers and presenters includes nationally-recognized thought leaders such as Tim Shanahan, Jan Hasbrouck, Alfrieda "Freddy" Hiebert, Leslie Laud, Lindsay Kemeny, Molly Ness, Jamey Peavler, and MORE. Build your team and get excited about the amazing opportunities to grow your school's literacy success at the fifth annual Alaska Science of Reading Symposium!

Early-bird ticket pricing (\$99) ends April 1st and increases to \$149 on April 2nd.

AK Science of Reading Symposium Registration

<https://education.alaska.gov/AKSOR>

If you are registering a large team, please contact Sarah Buehler at Government Event Services for a bulk ticket order form (sarah@goveventservices.com)

Missed a year or want to revisit sessions?

[2023 Symposium Recordings](#)

[2024 Symposium Recordings](#)

[2025 Symposium Recordings](#)

Questions about the symposium?

Email tamara.vanwyhe@alaska.gov for more information.

Current Happenings



Now accepting nominations...

ALASKA SCIENCE OF READING AMBASSADORS



NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN!

Do you know someone who has transformed their classroom, school, or district and empowered students through knowledge and implementation of strategies and approaches aligned with the science of reading? What about someone who has gone above and beyond core instruction to apply evidence-based practices in less traditional ways in areas like assessment, intervention, bi-literacy, and beyond? How about someone who has demonstrated exemplary leadership in leveraging opportunities presented by the Alaska Reads Act? (Please note - this "someone" might be YOU! Self-nominations are welcome!) We believe these efforts deserve to be celebrated! **Help us to recognize and celebrate this work by nominating a colleague or yourself for a recognition as an AK Science of Reading Ambassador.**

Reaching our goal of "all students reading at grade level by the end of grade 3" will take ALL of us. Therefore, we are excited to honor Alaska Reads Ambassadors in a variety of roles at the classroom, school, and district levels -- including **paraprofessionals, teachers, school leaders, district leaders, and science of reading advocates.**

Nominations will be accepted until 11:59 pm on MONDAY, April 6, 2026.

Nomination form: <https://bit.ly/aksor-ambassador-26>



INVITATION TO APPLY

ALASKA STATE LITERACY ADVISORY GROUP

Your voice is needed to ensure continued stakeholder input and engagement in statewide literacy initiatives. Apply today at <https://bit.ly/AKLiteracyStakeholderAdvisoryGroupApplication>



DEED is pleased to open applications for an **Alaska State Literacy Advisory Group** to ensure continued stakeholder input and engagement in statewide literacy initiatives. If you are interested in serving, please complete the application linked below.

The department aims to balance the group with stakeholders representing Alaska's regions, interest groups, and areas of expertise. Applications are due April 1st.

Application: <https://bit.ly/AKLiteracyStakeholderAdvisoryGroupApplication>

This group will meet virtually and in person this spring on the following dates:

- April 15, 2026, from 9:30 - 11:30 am AST - Virtual Convening (*required attendance*)
- May 3, 2026, from 2:30 - 6:00 pm AST - In-person gathering at Dena'ina Center, Anchorage (*required attendance*)

Future meeting dates and times will be determined.

Additional details about the advisory group's focus, timeline, and expectations are included in the application. Questions? Contact akreads@alaska.gov

Communities of Practice (COP)

We look forward to the participation of your team or district representative at these required collaborative gatherings.

- **Delivery:** Zoom Webinars hosted by DEED and Glean Education
- **Day & Time:** Tuesdays, 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm*
 - April 21, 2026 - Implementing & Sustaining
 - May 26, 2026 - EOY Data Analysis & Planning for FY27

* Dates subject to change due to extenuating circumstances.

COP March Meeting: Instruction/Intervention

The March Community of Practice focused on strengthening Tier 3 literacy interventions within an MTSS framework to better support students with the greatest needs.

Key themes included:

- Rethinking the MTSS triangle to better meet student needs
- Utilizing structured literacy interventions and diagnostic tools
- Analyzing student data over time to inform instruction
- Implementing key factors for successful intervention (consistency, systematic instruction, collaboration, and progress monitoring)

The session highlighted the importance of strong leadership, consistent implementation, and collaboration, while emphasizing early literacy and targeted interventions as critical drivers of improved student outcomes.

"Research now shows that a child who doesn't learn the reading basics early is unlikely to learn them at all. Any child who doesn't learn to read early and well will not easily master other skills and knowledge, and is unlikely to ever flourish in school or in life."

By Louisa Moats Professor Emerita University of Vermont & Author

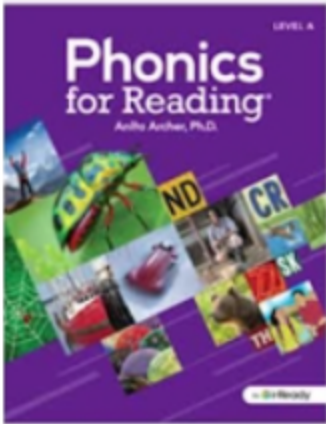
Marzano Educator and School Leader Surveys Update

Marzano Educator and School Leader Surveys were due March 17. Subgrantees with at least five responses have received district results. If additional time is needed, please contact caitlin.scott@marzanoresearch.com to request an extension.

District Glows

Consistency and alignment of instructional resources across schools and grade levels: Districts share progress and approaches

- "District improving progress monitoring processes"
 - "Teachers are engaged with Amplify Boost and how it integrates with their rotating small groups. Amplify Tutoring has been attributed to our intervention program."
 - "Consistent progress monitoring"
 - "We have had a lot of success in strengthening our Tier 1 curriculum and making sure it's consistent across grade levels."
 - "Having high impact tutoring offered by an outside vendor (virtually) has been great for my multi-grade teachers (and all teachers really). It allows them to work with small groups while students needing intervention are getting evidence-based instruction."
 - "Systems Success: District-wide common planning period and district-wide common courses (live virtual for students across the district)"
 - "Systems Success: consistency of materials available across our schools"
 - "Using HQIM which include collaborative planning structures, coupled with PD for principals (providing actionable feedback and common learning walk tools)"
 - "Utilizing data to inform instruction more effectively"
 - "Our WIN intervention time (What I Need) K-5th grades."
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[Phonics for Reading](#)

A program designed for students in **grade 3 and above**

This asynchronous course provides introductory training for the 2024 *Phonics for Reading Intervention Program* with Dr. Anita Archer. The program uses evidence-based strategies to strengthen word recognition, phonemic awareness, and decoding skills, improving reading fluency and comprehension. Phonics for Reading is an approved evidence-based intervention under the Alaska Reads Act for students identified through screening measures.

Participants may earn 2 CEUs by completing the course and its implementation.

VLC

Virtual Learning Consortium

Your one-stop hub for FREE professional development, virtual learning, and resources,—supporting Alaska’s educators and students through accessible learning opportunities.



Professional Development Courses

- AK Reads Act Endorsement
- Continuing Education Units (CEUs)
- Science of Reading
- Intervention Programs
- Instructional Leadership & Coaching



Virtual Services - Coming Soon!

- Virtual Coaching
- Technical Support



Digital Library

- Reading & Writing Webinars
- Tutoring Training Courses
- Support Resources for Families & Students



Student Resources

- Educators and Student Resources
- Curriculum to Guide Instruction
- Virtual Tools
- Learning Resources for Students
- FREE Tutoring

<https://education.alaska.gov/virtual-learning-consortium>

Reading Research & Resources

[New Research: Done Right, Virtual Tutoring Nearly Rivals In-Person Version](#)

By Greg Toppo

Questions on the Reads Act? Email AKReads@alaska.gov

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