

OL&LA

ONLINE LANGUAGE and LITERACY ACADEMY

OL&LA BENEFITS EDUCATORS

In Language-Diverse Classrooms by Making
Structured Literacy Accessible For All Learners



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The State of Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction

The growing recognition and adoption of the science of reading and Structured Literacy across the United States represent significant progress toward equitable literacy education. However, for students from linguistically diverse backgrounds, ***there is more to the solution.***

While Structured Literacy is effective for linguistically diverse students like Multilingual Learners, English variety speakers, and students who may have dyslexia, educators also need to understand ***second-language acquisition research*** to build upon their students' existing literacy and language skills.

Opportunities in Professional Development

- **Enhanced integration:** Combining Structured Literacy with Second Language Acquisition better supports educators in language-diverse classrooms.

- **Inclusion at the core:** Recognizing and integrating diverse student needs as a central element of Structured Literacy opens the door to making education inclusive for all learners.
- **Curriculum alignment:** Infusing professional development with content that aligns with existing curricula enhances the impact and relevance of educator learning.
- **Improved accessibility:** Addressing time and budget constraints broadens access to professional development, bringing valuable learning opportunities within reach for more educators.
- **Diverse instruction:** Adapting literacy instruction to mirror the diversity of backgrounds and experiences in today's classrooms is critical for improving outcomes for all students.

OL&LA (Online Language and Literacy Academy)

Leading the Movement in Truly Equitable Structured Literacy Education

Say hello to OL&LA, an asynchronous online course that gives today's educators the tools they need to unlock the full potential of every student. OL&LA personalizes professional learning for literacy by integrating [evidence-based reading instruction](#), second-language acquisition research,

and CORE Learning's nationally acclaimed [Teaching Reading Sourcebook](#). This Structured Literacy course is specifically tailored for educators in language-diverse classrooms that include Multilingual Learners, English variety speakers, and students with dyslexia.

Empowering educators

OL&LA empowers educators with the knowledge and skills to:

- Deliver standards-aligned and evidence-based reading instruction for all students, including Multilingual Learners, English variety speakers, and students with dyslexia
- Articulate the research on reading instruction and second language acquisition, then link research to practice
- Understand how to use informal diagnostic measures of phonological awareness, decoding, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension as a basis for instructional decisions

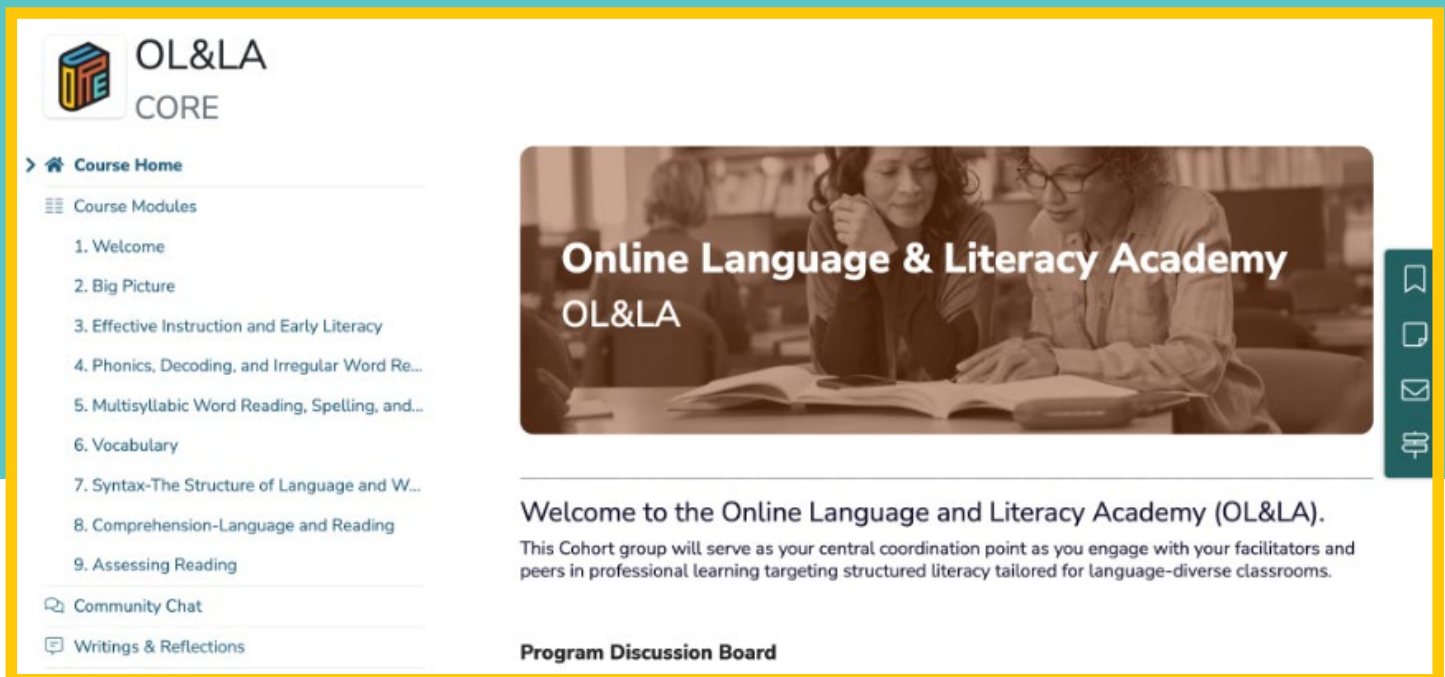
How OL&LA does it — “Structured Literacy &”

- **Comprehensive research-driven content:** Educators improve their knowledge and skills so that every student’s needs are recognized throughout the learning journey. This is achieved through OL&LA’s “Structured Literacy &” approach—the “&” represents Structured Literacy and Second Language Acquisition. This is our solution to equitable literacy instruction, which is centered on a meticulously crafted scope and sequence that distills evidence-based research in second-language acquisition and literacy development paired with reading assignments from CORE Learning’s acclaimed [*Teaching Reading Sourcebook*](#).
- **Enhanced professional learning with AI:** AI-driven classroom simulations empower educators to enhance their teaching methods and seamlessly integrate evidence-based reading instruction and second-language acquisition instructional practices into their lessons, fostering rapid and effective professional growth.
- **Transformation of classroom practice:** Instructional practices tailored for linguistically diverse settings are more than just classroom aids; they’re the building blocks of teacher success.



OL&LA Course Modules

OL&LA takes educators through an 18-week asynchronous online course with nine modules rooted in the principles of Structured Literacy. Each module focuses on the practical application of evidence-based reading and second-language acquisition research in language-diverse classrooms.



OL&LA CORE

> **Course Home**

☰ **Course Modules**

1. Welcome
2. Big Picture
3. Effective Instruction and Early Literacy
4. Phonics, Decoding, and Irregular Word Re...
5. Multisyllabic Word Reading, Spelling, and...
6. Vocabulary
7. Syntax-The Structure of Language and W...
8. Comprehension-Language and Reading
9. Assessing Reading

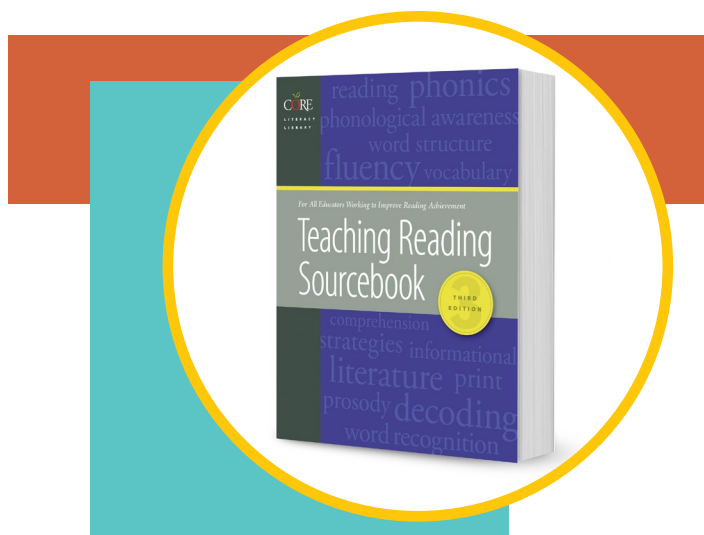
🗨 **Community Chat**

📄 **Writings & Reflections**

Online Language & Literacy Academy OL&LA

Welcome to the Online Language and Literacy Academy (OL&LA).
This Cohort group will serve as your central coordination point as you engage with your facilitators and peers in professional learning targeting structured literacy tailored for language-diverse classrooms.

Program Discussion Board



Key Texts and Resources

The *Teaching Reading Sourcebook* includes a research-informed knowledge base and practical lesson models aligned to the scientific evidence of effective instructional practices.

OL&LA Modules

MODULE 1

Welcome

- **Description:** Introduces the OL&LA program and sets the stage for a transformative learning experience in Structured Literacy
- **Relevance:** Establishes a foundation for understanding the unique needs of language-diverse classrooms and how OL&LA aligns with these requirements


MODULE 2

Big Picture: Spoken Language, Reading, and Word Structure

- **Description:** Explores the relationship between spoken language, reading development, and word structure, which are crucial for comprehensive literacy instructional practices
- **Relevance:** Essential for educators working to help students grasp the fundamentals of literacy in language-diverse classrooms

Course Modules / M2 - Big Picture / Knowledge Pre-Check

Knowledge Pre-Check

 **Module 2 Pre-Check**

Before we get started, let's do a quick Knowledge Pre-Check. You'll do this again at the end of the module to see how much you've learned. Try to answer without using resources to get a true growth measurement.

In 2000, the National Reading Panel established the five essential components of reading. They are phonological awareness, phonics, vocabulary, comprehension, and what?

- Fluency
- Word knowledge
- Orthographic knowledge
- Print awareness

Spoken language and written language require different skills for comprehension.

True False

OL&LA Modules

MODULE 3

Effective Instruction: Language and Early Literacy

- **Description:** Focuses on instructional practices for effective language and early literacy with an emphasis on intervention techniques
- **Relevance:** Equips educators in language-diverse classrooms with the skills to address early literacy challenges, which is crucial in environments with diverse linguistic backgrounds

M3 - Effective Instruction / Unit 12: Phonemic Awareness

Phonemic Awareness Skills

Directions: Sort each activity into a Phonological Awareness Level of Development.

Word	Syllable	Onset-Rime	Phoneme
What is the first part of dog? What is the last part of dog? Can you say dog in two parts?	How many sounds are in the word chat?	Put these parts together to make the word um-brella.	What is this word /h/ /a/ /t/?
Put these two parts of the word together water-melon.	Clap the word parts in belong. How many times did you clap?	Clap the word parts in flash-light. How many times did you clap?	What word am I trying to say /m/ - /u/ g?

MODULE 4

Phonics, Decoding, and Irregular Words

- **Description:** Delves into teaching phonics, decoding skills, and irregular words
- **Relevance:** Particularly useful in classrooms with diverse linguistic backgrounds where students may have varied phonetic and linguistic foundations

OL&LA Modules

MODULE 5

Multisyllabic Words, Spelling, and Fluency

- **Description:** Addresses advanced literacy concepts, including teaching multisyllabic word decoding, spelling, and fluency development
- **Relevance:** Supports educators in language-diverse classrooms in developing the advanced literacy skills that are essential for students' long-term academic success

Course Modules / M5 - Multisyllabic Word Reading, Spelling, and Fluency / In Practice

In Practice



Think of the words you highlighted in the last activity (visit [Sourcebook page 767](#) to see excerpts again). What skills from Scarborough's Reading Rope (for example, Language Comprehension and Word Recognition) would your students need to have mastered to read these words fluently? How might you support background knowledge to aid recognition of these words? What comprehension differences might your multilingual learners bring to the vocabulary?

On the Word Recognition side, do you have an assessment to identify students who have difficulty decoding these words or students who can fluently read these words? If so, which assessments do you use? What type of instruction have you provided in the past to teach students to read multisyllabic words? Be sure to use at least four of the following Multisyllabic Word Reading Key Terms in your response: polysyllabic word, syllable, morpheme, affix, prefix, suffix, syllabication.

Please enter your response here.

MODULE 6

Vocabulary: Spoken and Written Language

- **Description:** Covers techniques for teaching vocabulary in both spoken and written forms while highlighting context and comprehension
- **Relevance:** Aids teachers in language-diverse classrooms in enhancing vocabulary instruction, which is a key component in supporting Multilingual Learners



OL&LA Modules

MODULE 7

Syntax: The Structure of Language and Writing

- **Description:** Examines the role of syntax in understanding language structure and its impact on reading comprehension and writing skills
- **Relevance:** Empowers educators in language-diverse classrooms to teach complex language structures and enhance students' reading and writing abilities

MODULE 8

Comprehension: Language and Reading

- **Description:** Focuses on instructional practices to improve reading comprehension by integrating language skills with comprehension monitoring and text structure
- **Relevance:** Critical for educators in language-diverse classrooms to develop students' comprehensive reading skills, especially in environments rich in linguistic diversity

OL&LA Modules

MODULE 9

Assessing Reading

- **Description:** Provides insight into various methods and tools for effectively assessing reading skills and progress
- **Relevance:** Enables educators in language-diverse classrooms to conduct meaningful assessments that guide literacy instruction tailored to individual student needs

Unit 3: Frequently Asked Questions and Important Concepts

Explore the tabs of frequently asked questions and important concepts regarding assessments.

What is a standardized test?

What are norms?

What is a percentile rank?

What does norm-referenced mean?

What does criterion-referenced mean?

What is a curriculum-based measure?

What are some advantages of CBMs?

How frequently should CBMs be administered?

A standardized test uses a standard set of directions for test administration. Directions can include specific timing, rules for error correction, and precise language when administering the test. Because of the uniform administration, students' raw scores can be converted into some relative measure to obtain "derived" scores. Derived scores include age- and grade-equivalent scores and standard scores, such as percentile ranks and stanines.

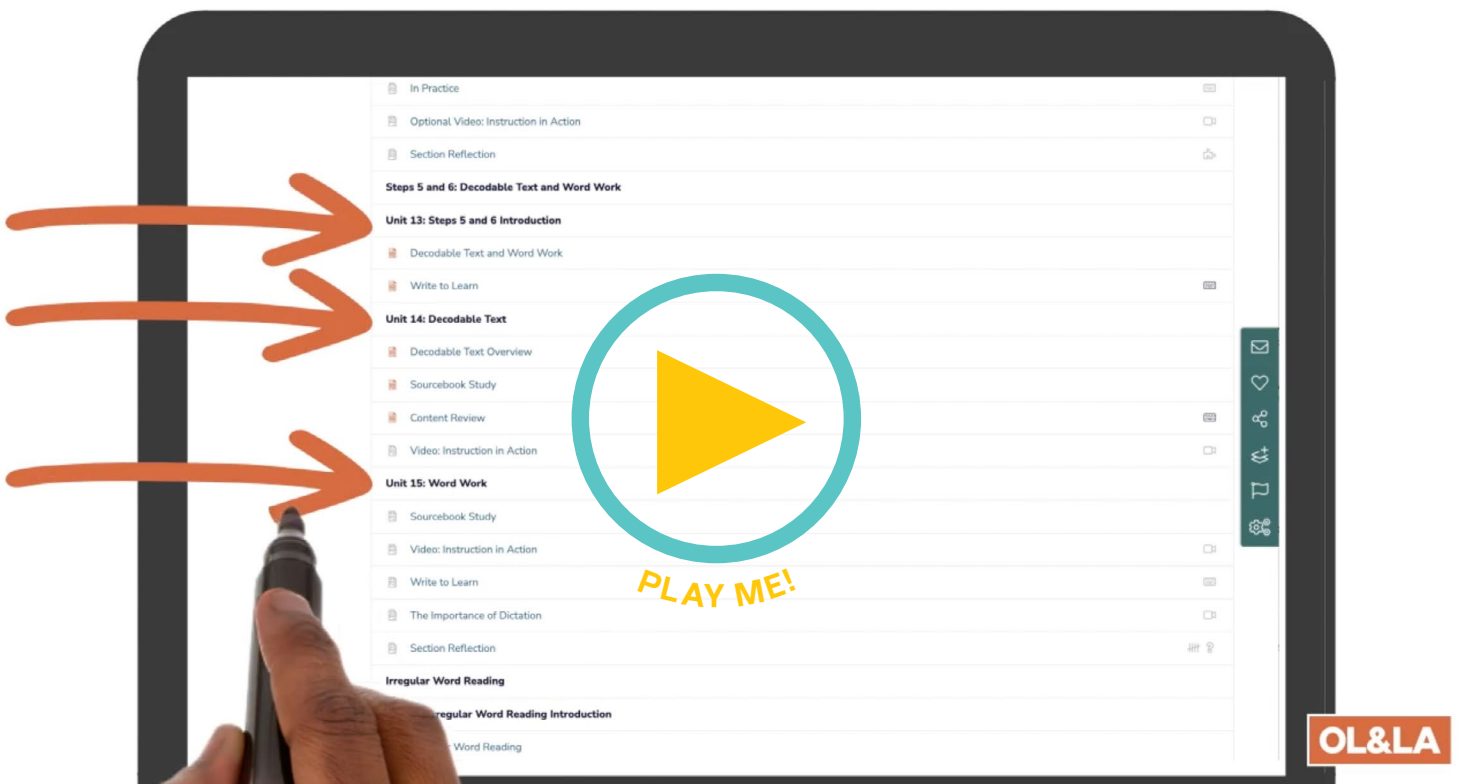
Format Options

OL&LA is available in several format options to meet your preferred learning style and schedule, including:

- Fully asynchronous and self-paced
- Asynchronous cohort with three CORE Learning facilitator-led virtual live sessions
- Asynchronous cohort led by in-district leaders who have completed the OL&LA Cohort Leader (OCL) Certification course

Peek Inside OL&LA

Get a firsthand look at the layout and content of OL&LA's nine modules



What Can Educators Expect?

"I thought this course was well laid out and very practical. I love the discussions, the videos, the classwork, and the books. I think it will greatly impact my teaching, especially with the assessments. ... The [Teaching Reading] Sourcebook gave me many strategies on what to do after I've assessed the child."

-Intervention Teacher, Lake Elsinore Unified School District, California



Participant Outcomes

At the end of the course, participants will be able to:

- Understand the factors that contribute to and affect reading comprehension, including the influence of oral language development.
- Identify and use techniques to support oral and academic language development for linguistically diverse students, including Multilingual Learners, English variety speakers, and students with dyslexia.
- Identify best practices and explicit methods to develop phonemic awareness, phonics, irregular and multisyllabic word knowledge, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, and literary and informational text knowledge.
- Explore the structure of English and other language systems, including Spanish.
- Identify the five essential components of evidence-based reading instruction.
- Understand the definition of dyslexia, common signs of dyslexia by grade level, and evidence-based instructional practices and accommodations to meet the educational needs of students with dyslexia.
- Learn how to use informal diagnostic measures of phonological awareness, decoding, fluency vocabulary, and comprehension as a basis for instructional decisions.

What's Next? Achieving Success for Educators and Their Students

[Request a consultation](#) to learn more about OL&LA, or [contact us](#) to sign up for the new course.

With OL&LA, we're not just addressing the need for equitable literacy instruction; we're fulfilling it.



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