



# Multilingual Learners Newsletter

## September 2022



### Foundational Reading Skills



Nebraska adopted new [ELA Standards in September, 2021](#). The foundations of reading/science of reading is one key instructional shift in the ELA Standards.. There is a carefully sequenced progression of skills that should inform instruction of the following: Phonology, Sound-Symbol Association, Syllables, Morphology, Syntax, and Semantics. **Students who have a language other than English as their first language also need to hear English and practice their oral language as they work on these foundational reading skills.**

<p><b>ELA/Literacy Shift 1: Science of Reading/Foundations of Reading:</b>Concepts about how children learn to read. Carefully sequenced progression of skills that include phonology, sound-symbol association, syllables, morphology, syntax, and semantics.</p>		
<p><b>Teachers...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Provide explicit instruction</li> <li>● Provide frequent, meaningful opportunities to practice</li> <li>● Monitor progress</li> <li>● Differentiate instruction</li> </ul>	<p><b>School Leaders...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Provide early literacy training</li> <li>● Provide access to HQIM</li> <li>● Create structures to maximize core instruction of literacy</li> <li>● Ensure print-rich environments</li> </ul>	<p><b>Students...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Orally practice skills</li> <li>● Engage in frequent, meaningful practice opportunities</li> <li>● Read at home</li> <li>● Read self-selected literary and informational texts</li> </ul>

[NebraskaREADS](#) is an initiative that supports the policies and practices outlined in the [Nebraska Reading Improvement Act](#). It emphasizes the importance of strong early reading instruction to bring all students to grade-level proficiency. While K-3 students with limited English proficiency who have received less than two years of English instruction are not required to be screened per the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act, districts are required to provide appropriate language and literacy instruction and opportunities for these students. The NDE, in collaboration with [REL Central](#) at Marzano Research, have developed a series of condensed practice guides to assist teachers and school districts. Check out some of the following resources!

- [Supporting Family Involvement in Foundational Literacy Skills](#)
- [Effective Literacy Instruction for EL](#)
- [Improving Adolescent Literacy](#)
- [Teaching Academic Content and Literacy](#)

[NebraskaREADS: Structured Literacy Early Reading Skills Toolkit](#) A collection of relevant and practical resources to support a student’s development of important reading skills.

[New Mexico’s Structured Literacy Bilingual Guidance](#)



## Spotlight:

### Welcome our new office associate Becky Heavican!



From Becky: “I was delighted to join the Nebraska Department of Education in December 2020 and Federal Programs in May 2022. My role as office associate is compatible with my organization skills and ability to communicate. I enjoy learning new things as well as helping the public. I have spent most of my career as a public servant through either local, state or Federal government. My rural upbringing and public education through Dist 4-R and Schuyler Central High has prepared me to be successful in my journey. I enjoy reading, cooking, my flower garden, family and UNL - Nebraska sports especially football and volleyball.”

**Guidance:** Districts are obligated to ensure English Learners (ELs) can meaningfully participate in educational programs and services, and to communicate information to parents in a language they can understand.

[Office for Civil Rights \(OCR\) Requirements](#)

[Dear Colleague Letter, January 2015](#)

### Extended Learning Opportunities:

The Nebraska History Museum offers field trips as well as virtual opportunities to extend and engage learning. Jessica Stoner is the Education Associate at the museum and wants to make sure all students have a great experience. She is very conscientious about scaffolds and support for English learners. If you are interested and want to learn more, contact her at [jessica.stoner@nebraska.gov](mailto:jessica.stoner@nebraska.gov). She shared the following links to the Nebraska Folklife Website, a nonprofit that creates and loans out cultural trunks to schools.

- [LEARN – Nebraska Folklife](#)
- [EDUCATIONAL TRUNKS – Nebraska Folklife](#)

[MidTESOL Conference](#) September 23 & 24, 2022 in Kansas City, MO

[Effective Literacy Instruction for Multilingual Learners](#) - September 21, 2022 3:00-4:30 pm CT

[ELPA21 Workshops](#) - 2022-2023 Workshops ( Formative Assessment Level 2 is new)

[SLIFE Resources](#) (Students with Limited or Interrupted Formal Education)

**Questions:** Please contact us with any questions or concerns regarding your MLL students or program.



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