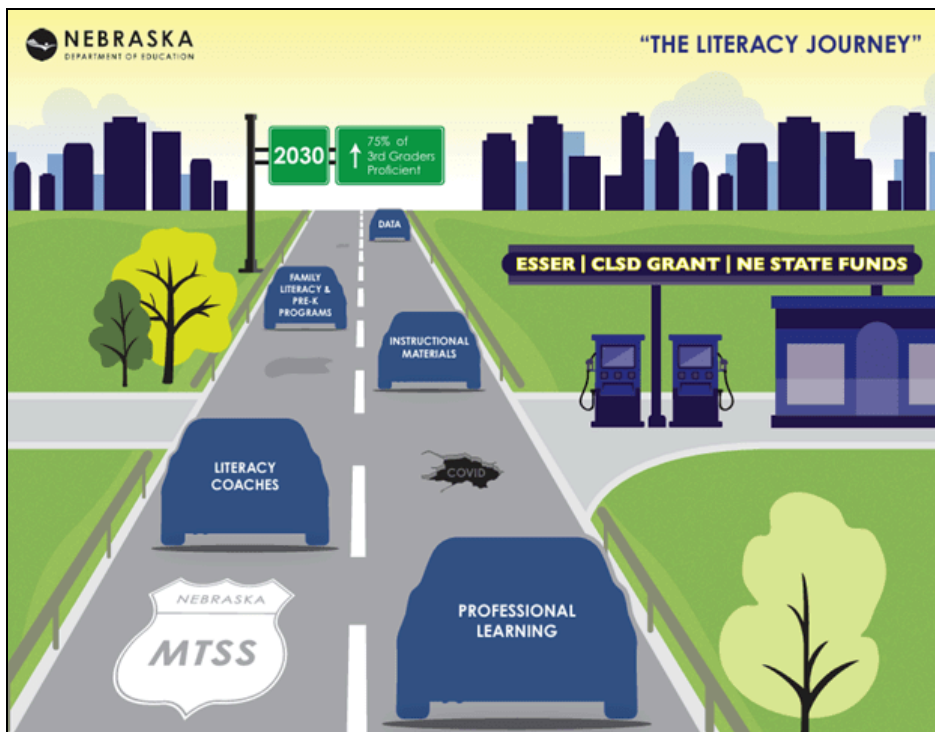




English/Multilingual Learners Newsletter April 2026

Literacy Initiative Across the State

The [Nebraska Literacy Project Plan](#) was approved by the state board in February of 2025. This plan is designed to foster proficient and lifelong readers. The goals include third grade proficiency to 75% in 2030, improve the % of students in grades K-3 who meet the reading assessment thresholds, and that 100% of Nebraska educator preparation programs implement evidence-based instruction for teachers grounded in the science of reading. [Nebraska Literacy Project Plan 2024-25](#)



There are 5 Tenets of this Plan.

Tenet 1 Professional Learning System

- [PL Resources](#)
- [Instructional Practice Guides](#)

Tenet 2 Curriculum and Teacher

Preparation Aligned to

Evidence-Based Reading Instruction

Tenet 3 Regional Literacy Coaches

Tenet 4 Data Collection to Evaluate Effectiveness

Tenet 5 Family Literacy and PreK Programs

- [Family and Early Literacy Resources \(2026 Resources Flyer\)](#)

The Science of Reading with

EL/MLs: A small group consisting of NDE, NeMTSS, ESUs, and District Leaders has been meeting to discuss ideas around literacy and

English learners/Multilingual learners. From this group has come resources that support English learners/Multilingual learners. These resources can be found on the [NDE EL Website](#) and the [NebraskaREADS Website](#). This group continues to meet and is now working on supporting English learners who may also have learning disabilities. A couple of goals include working on a flow chart for considerations, developing a progress monitoring tool for language acquisition, developing important data points to use with MTSS, and possibly a FAQ regarding language acquisition.



Spotlight: Jamie Cook, NDE Literacy Officer

Across Nebraska, literacy efforts continue to build momentum as districts strengthen the alignment between professional learning, instructional practice, and leadership support. Through CLSD and the broader Nebraska Literacy Project, educators from early childhood through secondary are engaging in Science of Reading aligned professional learning, with growing evidence of increased educator knowledge and understanding of evidence-based literacy practices. This work is also strengthening educators' ability to support multilingual learners by deepening understanding of language development, vocabulary, and the role of

oral language in literacy, while emphasizing access to grade-level content through intentional language supports. This learning is reinforced through coaching cycles and leadership tools like the [Instructional Practice Guide](#) (IPG), helping ensure that high-quality, language-rich practices are consistently implemented in classrooms.

As a result, early CLSD indicators show improvements in instructional consistency, stronger use of high-quality materials, and initial signs of student growth. While this work is still in the early stages and system-wide outcomes will take time, the increasing coherence across Nebraska's literacy system is building a strong foundation for long-term impact for all students, including multilingual learners. These efforts are grounded in a shared statewide vision: to develop proficient readers through evidence-based instruction, sustained by aligned systems, informed by meaningful data, and strengthened through ongoing collaboration and collective educator expertise over time.

Guidance: [The Nebraska Literacy Project Plan](#). The Nebraska Literacy Project Plan provides a framework for Nebraska educators and other stakeholders to work together to positively impact literacy for all Nebraska students. [Nebraska Revised Statute 79-2607](#) requires the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) to establish a professional learning system related to evidence-based reading instruction.

EL Coalition Spring Meeting April 15, 2026 - Literacy Focus

- [In-person registration](#) (Registration fee covers workshop fees. Note: Please request any hotel and mileage reimbursement through your district Title III EL PD funds.)
- [Zoom option registration](#)

Additional Resources:

- [NDE Literacy Professional Learning Resources](#)
- [NDE Instructional Practice Guides](#)
- [NDE Adolescent Literacy](#)
- [Native Youth Gathering April 15, 2026](#), ([register](#) by April 5, 2026)
- [Storyworld](#) - educators sign up for free
- [Unite For Literacy](#) - Free Online Resources in Multiple Languages
- [Planting Seeds Conference](#) April 29, 2026 in Kearney
- NCELA (National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition) - [Title III State Profiles](#), [Resources](#)
- [SERP Institute Community Forum Webinars](#) (STARI - Adolescent Literacy Resource)
- [Pathwise](#) (formerly TransACT ParentNotices) There are documents to support all areas of education. NDE currently provides the subscription and anyone can [self-onboard](#). [Log in here](#). (The subscription with NDE will end after this school year.)



Questions: Please contact us with any questions or concerns regarding your EL/ML students or program.

Julie Otero - julie.otero@nebraska.gov 402-405-5212 Anne Hubbell - anne.hubbell@nebraska.gov 402 405-7017

