CT Literacy Conference

Welcome to the Connecticut Literacy Conference

CONNECTICUT Education

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Engaging Families and Communities: Strengthening School-Family-Community Partnerships in Literacy



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Literacyhow
Empower teaching excellence.

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Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success

You are here!



Session Outcomes

- Identify strategies for strengthening school, family, and community partnerships that support students' language and literacy development.
- Explore CSDE resources and Connecticut examples of family literacy practices that promote meaningful engagement and learning experiences.
- Identify actionable next steps for strengthening family and community engagement within your school or district literacy plan/efforts.



A Roadmap for Family Engagement

OUR DESTINATION

Full, Equal & Equitable Partnerships

Families, educators, and community partners working together to support children's learning and development.

Full: Consistent collaboration

Equal: Complementary expertise

Equitable: Remove systemic barriers

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Relationships

1. Build trust focused on learning
2. Listen to families
6. Build cultural competence together
7. Develop parent leaders and advocates

Link to Learning

3. Model high-quality learning practices
4. Share each child's progress frequently
5. Ask students how to support their learning

INFRASTRUCTURE • Building Capacity to Do the Work

Families
Knowledge, confidence & leadership

Educators
Time, training & support to partner

School & District Leaders
Policies, staffing, funding & accountability

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CSDE Whole Family Well-Being

- Support the whole family
- Honor family strengths
- Connect learning and opportunity
- Partner with communities
- Learn together
- Advance equity
- Plan intentionally



Parent Teacher Conferences

PERCEPTION VS. REALITY

Almost 9 in 10 parents think their kids are at or above grade level*.

BE A LEARNING HERO

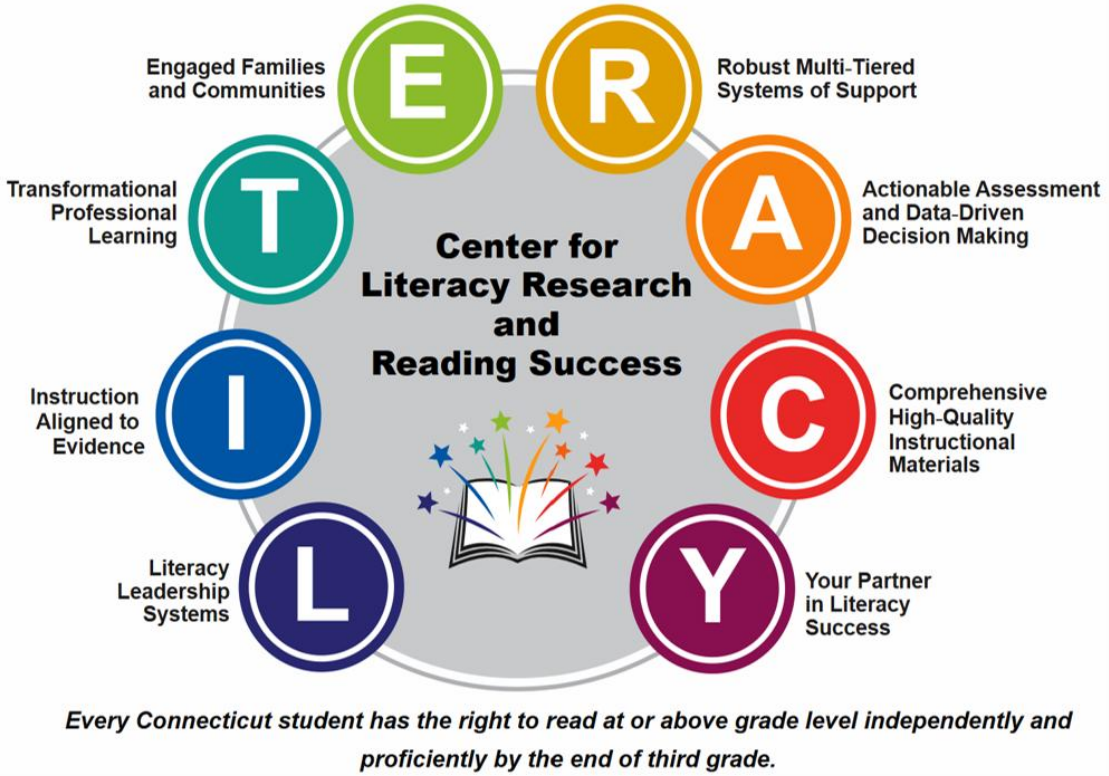


TeacherVersion- Parent/Teacher Planning Tool - Google Slides

1. Preview the slides with a partner
2. Notice and Wonder
3. Share out

Center Website

[Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success]

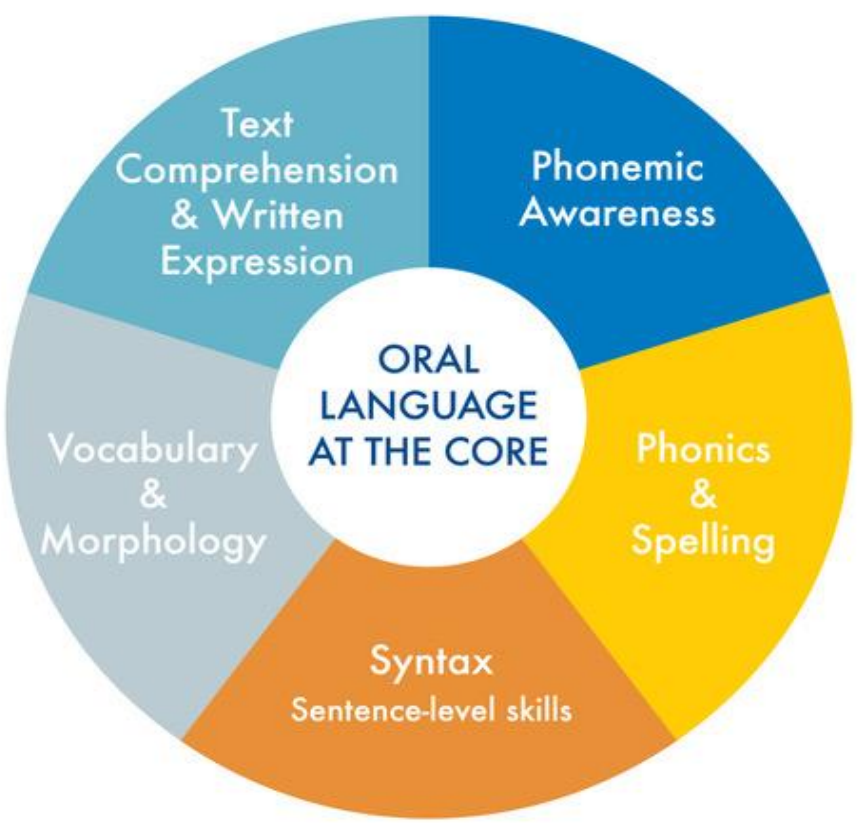


History of CTLM

- Introduction to the model formerly known as CK3LI
- Support for CT schools since 2013
- Parent Leadership Training Institute Facilitators from 2013-2020
- New model introduced in 2021 with input from CSDE
- 2021-2023 Pilot Program with 5 schools, internal facilitation
- 2023-2024 Internal facilitation, 2 cohorts, 11 schools, 21 events
- 2024-2025 Internal facilitation, 3 cohorts, 20 schools, 57 events
- 2025-2026 Internal facilitation, 4 cohorts, 17 schools, 36 events

The Literacy How Reading Wheel

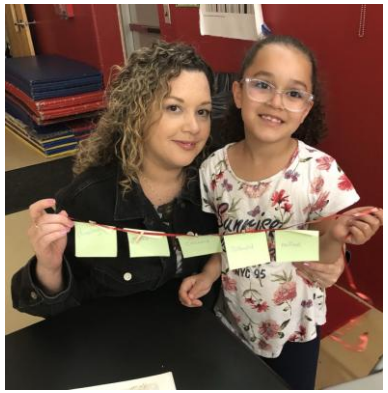
Core Components of Comprehensive Literacy





Vocabulary

- Juicy Words Game Show
- Clever Connections and Abundant Adjectives
- Lingo Bingo with *Celia Cruz*







Comprehension

- Family Stories
- Create a Story with Dice
- Mystery Night – Read Like a Detective
- School-developed choice





Foundational Skills

- Phonemic awareness and Phonics
- Reading Fluency

What do Family Literacy Nights look like?



Bradley School's Gingerbread Family Literacy Night! (1).mp4 - Google Drive

District Panel



Amanda Chiasson
Reading Specialist
Charles Barnum Magnet School
Groton P.S.

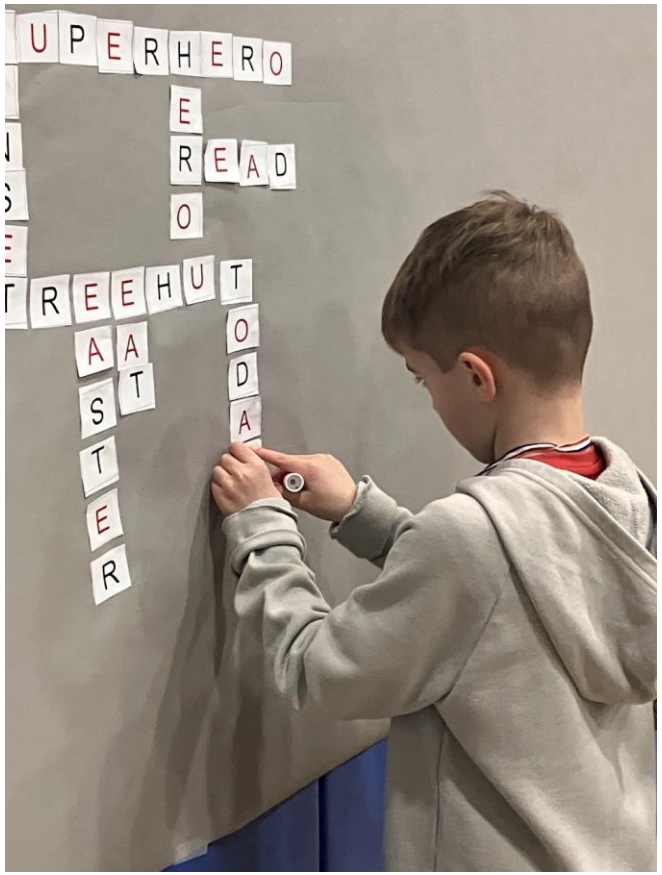


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Heather Mastracchio
Literacy Coach
Tuttle E.S.
East Haven P.S.

Elizabeth Green School
Newington P.S.







Tuttle Elementary School
East Haven P.S.







Charles Barnum School
Groton P.S.



Build Your Child's Vocabulary at Home Family Tips



- **Have Conversations** Talk with your child every day
- **Involve Your Child** Share experiences to help build vocabulary
- **Use Big Words** Use heartbroken instead of sad
- **Go For a Walk** Discuss the things you see (ex. Different types of leaves)
- **Read & Talk About Books** Describe the characters from the story
- **Tell Stories** Talk about your day
- **Sorting and Grouping Objects** Discuss different ways to group objects (ex. Toys)
- **Word Collecting** Be on the lookout for interesting words. Keep a list.
- **Use positional words** Make a game out of using words such as beside, below, etc.





Fun Things to Do With Kids In New London County

New London County offers a variety of summer fun for kids, from beaches and parks to museums and attractions. Here is a compilation of places you might want to visit.

Outdoor Adventures:

Ocean Beach Park:

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Enjoy the beach, arcade, carousel, and various dining options.



Bluff Point State Park:

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Explore trails along the coast for a relaxing walk or boat trip.



Connecticut College Arboretum:

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Discover diverse plant life and scenic landscapes.

Harkness Memorial State Park:

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Resources

- Adult Education Enhancement Projects
- CSDE Family Learning Hub
- CSDE Full, Equal, and Equitable Partnerships
- Office of Dyslexia and Reading Disabilities- Dyslexia Awareness Collaborative, Podcasts, and more!



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Contact Information



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Thank you for attending the conference!

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Please scan the QR code to provide us with feedback on your experience.



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