



EARLY LITERACY NETWORK

Overview
April 2026

BACKGROUND

The [Early Literacy Network](#) was formed in 2015 as a forum for State Department of Education literacy leaders and reading program specialists who are directly responsible for implementing comprehensive early literacy policy and programs. The Network convenes quarterly, twice face-to-face and twice virtually, to discuss current reading practices in early literacy, troubleshoot, and share lessons learned and best practices for effective policy and program implementation.

PARTICIPATING STATES

Membership has grown to over 130 members, representing 39 states and the District of Columbia:

- Alabama
- Alaska
- Arizona
- Arkansas
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- Florida
- Georgia
- Hawaii
- Idaho
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Maine
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Missouri
- Mississippi
- Nebraska
- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- New Mexico
- North Carolina
- North Dakota
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Pennsylvania
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Utah
- Vermont
- Virginia
- Washington, D.C.
- West Virginia
- Wyoming

CONVENINGS

Convenings of the Network focus on key components of early literacy policy and our core collective challenges that have surfaced from our previous convenings. The current national landscape of K-3 reading policy will be provided, along with networking opportunities throughout the day to empower states with innovative ideas for effective implementation. Discussions and activities include:

- A system of support for teachers on the science of reading/dyslexia and data-based decision-making
- Evidence-based reading programs, practices and instructional resources
- Key components of each state's reading policy: core instruction, individual reading plans (IRPs), evidence-based interventions, intensified interventions for retained third graders, and summer camps
- Effective messaging of the importance of early literacy and K-3 reading policy with all audiences
- A seamless cohesive approach to PreK-Grade 3, including assessment, language development, literacy, numeracy, and accountability

STATE COMMUNICATIONS RESOURCES

Typically, a state department of education is responsible for communicating its early literacy policy. Since 2017, *ExcelinEd* has partnered with Colorado, Nevada, North Carolina, South Carolina, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, and Arizona to develop resources to engage parents, school leaders, and communities in the discussion on early literacy. Examples of these resources include:

- [Videos](#)
- [Social Media](#) and [Communications Toolkits](#)
- [Parent Tip One-Pagers](#) and [Parent Engagement](#) Postcards
- [Summer Reading](#) One-Pager