



Improving Literacy Education: Starting a BOCES LETRS Cohort

Our Literacy Vision



We all share a deep commitment to improving literacy outcomes for our students in New York. Recent NAEP scores have shown that while we've made progress, there's still work to be done, with about **one-third of our fourth grade students** reading at a proficient level.

By offering Lexia® **LETRS® to both educators and admins**, we have an opportunity to further enhance our teaching strategies and narrow the literacy opportunity gap.

Through the BOCES, we can stagger educator cohorts to ensure **every student in every district** has robust support for reading success.

“

The challenges that we're facing now really stem from getting the knowledge to teachers and having teachers really understand what kids need and how to teach kids how to read.”

– **Frank Lukasik, Director of Literacy, East Meadow School District**

Introducing LETRS Professional Learning



LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) provides educators with a comprehensive understanding of effective literacy instruction, grounded in evidence-based practices.

- Comprehensive professional learning teaches the HOW, WHAT, and WHY of literacy acquisition.
- LETRS covers the foundational skills and fundamentals of reading and writing instruction—phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, and written language.
- The two-year, blended course shares the deep, essential knowledge needed to be literacy and language experts who can transform student learning.



Online Learning Platform



Print Manual



Unit Professional Learning Sessions
(Face-to-Face or Live Online)

Why LETRS



LETRS offers a structured, research-based approach that is more comprehensive than the free state options, ensuring educators receive **in-depth training that directly translates** to improved student literacy.

Because both classroom educators and administrators can take LETRS, districts are able to build horizontal and vertical supports with a common language. This is key to implementing long-term change.



//CODiE//
2024 SIIA CODiE WINNER

2024 CODiE Award Recognition

LETRS was recognized as the **Best Education Professional Development Solution** in the 2024 CODiE Awards, highlighting its impact on teacher effectiveness and student outcomes.

Why LETRS: Back-to-Basics Alignment



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By September of 2025, all school districts will need to certify with the State Education Department (SED) that their curriculum, instructional strategies, **and teacher professional development** align with all elements of the evidenced-based reading instruction.”

Research indicates that when teachers are well-informed about the science of reading, they can significantly improve students' literacy outcomes. LETRS equips educators with the knowledge and strategies necessary to effectively teach reading, addressing diverse learning needs and closing achievement gaps with evidence-based reading instruction.

LETRS Suite Alignment With NYSED Initiatives



Literacy Brief 1

- LETRS is born from the science of reading and teaches educators how to teach the “Big 6”

Literacy Brief 2

- LETRS provides deep knowledge of the science of reading, effective practices, and how to equally support English Learners

Literacy Brief 3

- LETRS supports writing skills alongside reading

Literacy Brief 4

- Lexia® LETRS® for Early Childhood Educators focuses on the foundations of literacy that apply in pre-K and kindergarten

Literacy Brief 5

- LETRS is designed to support elementary educators with the fundamentals of literacy instruction, and also provides guidance in reviewing and selecting science of reading-based curriculum

Literacy Brief 7

- LETRS and Lexia® LETRS® for Administrators empower leaders to successfully implement literacy initiatives, and cultivate a science of reading-based culture that ensures reading equity for all students

Expanding Science of Reading Instruction

Core5 and LETRS both believe:

- In the power of the science of reading
- Equity for all students can be achieved through literacy
- Teacher knowledge and proven instructional resources are keys to success
- Data-driven reading instruction is critical to meeting student needs and effectiveness
- Core5 and LETRS align with evidence-based practices, emphasizing data-driven instruction for diverse learners



We Already Have Core5, Why Add LETRS?



Higher Reading Scores

Students who used Lexia® Core5® Reading and had a teacher who began or completed LETRS scored higher in beginning reading ability after one academic year compared to students who were only using Core5. In other words, **combining LETRS and Core5 can have a greater impact on student achievement than using just Core5 alone.**



Improved Core5 Application

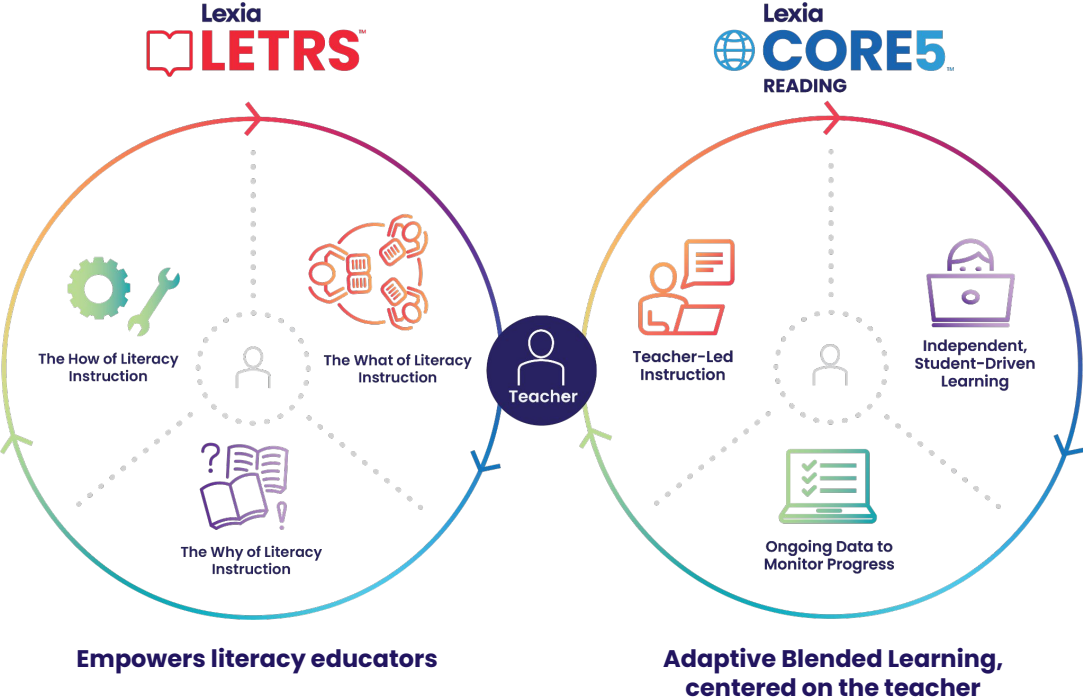
Core5 students were more likely to meet usage recommendations if their teachers began or completed LETRS, suggesting that LETRS may improve the implementation of evidence-based reading interventions. **Meeting usage in Core5 has a direct impact on student achievement.**



Districtwide Literacy Changes

The collaboration between **Core5 and LETRS** can foster **systematic changes in literacy instruction** across districts, promoting a science of reading-based culture that leads not only to reading equity but a vision of continuous growth.

Core5 and LETRS: A Powerful Partnership



Supporting Evidence | BOCES Love LETRS



We all want to know that we're getting it right. With LETRS, educators across New York report significant improvements in teacher confidence and student literacy outcomes.

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Over the last three years, more than 120 teachers in our district have attended LETRS PD. It has truly changed our conversations and how we, as a district, teach students to read.”

– Heather Witter, Director of Instructional Support Services, CiTi BOCES

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When I went through the LETRS experience, it was eye-opening. Before LETRS, we talked about phonics from a much more constructivist, inquiry-based approach and did a lot of word study within a balanced literacy framework. I didn't realize what I didn't know. Now, I understand that explicit, systematic instruction is needed to fully address phonemic awareness and phonics.

Reading is an equity issue, and the practices learned through LETRS are good for all students and help to provide access to the content and to the instruction for all learners.”

– Christine Treasure, Director of School Improvement, Monroe One BOCES

Supporting Evidence | Districts Love LETRS



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LETRS has been transformational in our district. It allowed us to start important conversations, while building the capacity of our teachers in literacy.”

– **Michele Gipe, Director of Teaching and Learning, East Syracuse Minoa Central School District**

“

LETRS training has given our teachers and reading experts the knowledge to make the best decisions regarding instruction for our most vulnerable students. This course has been the single most impactful professional development initiative that I have ever attended in my 20 years of teaching. Every teacher should take this course!”

– **Holly Bruni, Reading Teacher/ELA Facilitator, Jefferson Elementary School, New Rochelle School District**

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My LETRS training has really helped me to recognize which of my students are struggling, and it’s also helped me to understand how to remediate those students. So, it’s really filled my wheelhouse with skills and strategies to help me to teach those children.”

– **Jennifer Lasher, First Grade Teacher, East Meadows School District**

Powerful Returns From This Investment



LETRS can support every district in the BOCES

Projected Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We'll see anticipated, evidence-based improvements in student literacy scores across the district.• Enhanced teacher confidence, effectiveness, and retention.
Long-Term Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish our district as a model for literacy instruction.• Potential to improve college and career readiness for our graduates.
What the Research Shows	<p>Eighteen research studies on LETRS, including peer-reviewed publications, external evaluations, and doctoral thesis:</p> <p>Key findings across studies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improved teacher knowledge and instructional practices• Positive outcomes are linked to moderate-to-high implementation levels• Educators perceive LETRS learning as essential for improving student reading• LETRS demonstrates adaptability across various implementation contexts

Benefits Across Our Educational Ecosystem



Projected Literacy Gains

Implementing **LETRS** in combination with our existing literacy programs like **Core5** is expected to close the literacy opportunity gap, leading to improved reading scores and comprehension across **all** grades.



Teacher Development

Enhanced professional development results in a deeper understanding of literacy instruction, increasing **teacher confidence and job satisfaction**.



Districtwide Improvements

Adopting evidence-based literacy practices fosters a **culture of continuous improvement**, potentially boosting overall academic performance across the district.

Moving Forward



Next Steps Timeline

LETRS is a two-year program, but cohorts can run simultaneously.



Accountability Roles

Lexia® offers Success Partnerships to support implementation and maximize effectiveness.



Budget Considerations

LETRS qualifies for Title Funding (I and II) and is COSER-able.



Contact Information

[Lexia for New York](#)