

Empowering Teachers to Address Adolescent Literacy Gaps

Older students who lack foundational literacy skills will struggle in all subjects—and teachers don't always have the targeted training to support them. School administrators can build this capacity across classrooms by investing in professional learning that gives teachers the tools, strategies, and confidence to meet older readers where they are.

The **2024 RAND American Teacher Panel** found that while grade 3–8 teachers know their students, they face challenges in accelerating literacy for older students. Lexia Aspire® Professional Learning, designed for teachers of grades 4–8, gives them the tools to address each challenge identified by RAND.

CHALLENGE: Supporting Struggling Readers

Forty-four percent of students in grades 3–8 always or nearly always have difficulty reading the written content in their instructional materials.

44%

✓ ASPIRE SOLUTION

- Modules that provide actionable strategies for decoding, fluency, and comprehension
- Bridge to Application resources teachers can immediately use in the classroom

The image displays four Lexia Aspire resources arranged in a row. Each resource is shown as a document preview with a teal description box below it.

- Argumentative Text Lesson Plan Template**
A planning resource for educators, this lesson plan template introduces and guides students through reading an argumentative text and supports student comprehension and engagement.
For Educators
- Argumentative Text Annotation Anchor Chart**
This anchor chart resource displays symbols that can be used to annotate an argumentative text when introducing, practicing, or reviewing annotation as a comprehension strategy.
For Students
- Argumentative Text Structure Graphic Organizer**
This graphic organizer supports students with learning the structure of an argumentative text and identifying the claim, transition words, reasons, evidence, and counterclaim.
For Students
- Evaluating Arguments Checklist**
This activity supports students with evaluating the strength of an author's claim, reasons, evidence, and counterclaim. It can also be used as students write their own argumentative paragraphs and essays.
For Students

CHALLENGE: Lack of Effective Intervention Strategies

Many teachers **lack access** to reading specialists, diagnostic literacy assessments, and structured intervention tools.

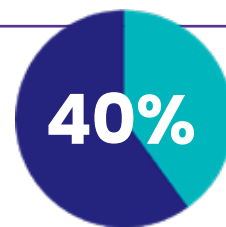
✓ ASPIRE SOLUTION

- Modules that show teachers how to analyze data to identify students in need of intervention and tailor instruction for them



CHALLENGE: Teacher Knowledge Gaps and Misconceptions

Forty percent of teachers hold misconceptions about how students develop word reading skills, often relying on personal experience rather than research-based methods.



✓ ASPIRE SOLUTION

- Modules that align with science of reading research and Structured Literacy instruction
- Personalized and scaffolded learning that meets teachers where they are
- “Check for understanding” assessments that ensure teachers understand the material

Word
Recognition



Language
Comprehension



Reading
Comprehension

The courses in Aspire are designed to address each of these areas in an explicit and systematic way.

CHALLENGE: Lack of Professional Learning Resources

Nearly 70% of teachers say they need additional training in reading fluency, comprehension strategies, and how to help students access grade-level texts.



✓ ASPIRE SOLUTION

- Modules that provide teachers with structured, research-based techniques to improve student literacy outcomes
- Ability for teachers to earn certification and graduate credits through Aspire's **partnership with the American College of Education (ACE)**

The partnership between Lexia® and the ACE allows participants to earn up to six graduate-level credits for completing Aspire's courses if they score an average of 80% or higher on certain combinations of courses.



Give your teachers the knowledge and strategies they need to help every student succeed in grades 4–8. Discover how **Aspire** equips educators with research-based tools to close literacy gaps and accelerate progress.



Grounded in the science of reading, Aspire is a flexible, self-paced, digital, International Dyslexia Association® (IDA)-accredited solution that empowers all educators to accelerate literacy skills among students in grades 4–8.



I love that Aspire is based on the science of reading and is specifically designed for educators working with adolescent students. The training has helped my educators weave in literacy skills in their classrooms and equipped them with the right skills to fill in the learning gaps that students had.”

–**Katherine Y. Leonard**

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