

THE VIRGINIA LITERACY ACT

Statewide Training Opportunity for Reading
Specialists
March 29, 2023

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OBJECTIVE AND AGENDA

Today's presentation will provide an update on the Virginia Literacy Act (VLA) and an overview of the statewide training opportunity for reading specialists.

- Virginia Literacy Act Updates
- Overview of Statewide Training for Reading Specialists
- Review Frequently Asked Questions

Virginia Literacy Act Updates

KEY COMPONENTS OF THE VLA

- 1. Defines Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction and Science-Based Reading Research**
- 2. Aligns Core Curricula, Screening, and Intervention Materials**
 - Requires core instructional, supplemental, and intervention programs in grades K-3 be aligned with science-based reading research, as set out in a division-wide literacy plan.
 - Adds a division-wide staffing ratio of one reading specialist per 550 students in K-3.
- 3. Requires Professional Development for Reading Specialists, Teachers, and Principals**
- 4. Partners with Families**
 - Ensures parents are engaged in student reading plans and have access to resources.
- 5. Aligns Educator Preparation and Licensure**
 - Requires certain educator preparation programs to ensure candidates have a program of coursework and demonstrate mastery in science-based reading research and evidence-based literacy instruction.
 - Requires literacy assessment for licensure or alternate route to licensure with certain endorsements.
 - Establishes a micro-credential program for add-on reading specialist endorsement.

OTHER KEY LITERACY ACTIVITIES (1 OF 2)

Revision of Virginia Literacy Screener

- Virginia is revising its K-3 screener to:
 - Align with the most current evidence base
 - Include more comprehensive and expanded coverage of skills
 - Extend to Pre-K 3-year-olds
 - Accurately identify students at risk of developing reading difficulties
 - Provide instructionally-useful information for teachers
 - Allow for measurement of growth over time and across grade levels as it is vertically-aligned
 - Include a new and improved online score entry and reporting system
- Virginia is also creating a vertically-aligned Spanish literacy measure (Pre-K through Grade 3) that is a parallel measure, not a translation.

OTHER KEY LITERACY ACTIVITIES (2 OF 2)

Review & Revision of the 2017 English Standards of Learning

- Members of the English Education Advisory Board and Standards Revision Steering Committees identified in April 2023.
- Proposed revisions to the Virginia *English Standards of Learning* will be brought to the Board for first review in November 2023.
- The department presents the draft of the proposed 2024 *English Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework* to the Board in October 2024.
- 2024-2025 SY: The Department provides a crosswalk between the 2017 *English Standards of Learning* and the 2024 *English Standards of Learning*.
- 2025-2026 SY: Crosswalk year: 2017 English Standards of Learning and 2024 *English Standards of Learning* included in the curriculum.
- 2026-2027 SY: Full-implementation year: Standards of Learning assessments measure the 2024 *English Standards of Learning*.

HIGH LEVEL TIMELINE

Fall 2022 –
Round 1 of K-3
core curriculum
reviews

Spring/Summer 2023–
Board reviews
recommended
core curriculum from
Round 1

Fall 2023 –

- Pilot with new Virginia Literacy Screener
- Board reviews proposed revisions to English SOLs

Summer 2024 –
Statewide training
for teachers kicks
off



Winter 2022 –
Advisory Work
Group launches

Summer 2023 –

- Statewide training for Reading Specialists kicks off
- Round 2 for core curriculum, supplemental, and intervention materials kicks off

Winter-Spring 2024–
Board reviews
recommended materials
from additional rounds

Fall 2024 –
All K-3 classrooms
are using approved
materials and
teachers are
supported to
implement evidence-
based literacy
instruction

ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

The VDOE, in partnership with Virginia Literacy Partnerships at the University of Virginia, has made progress towards implementation:

- Designed and launched Instructional Program Review Process for Core Curriculum, including developing rubrics, selecting and training Virginia reviewers, and facilitating multi-level decisions, with applications from 13 commercial programs and 2 division-developed programs.
- Launched Advisory Workgroup with 33 members for 13 different roles that meets quarterly.
- Hired 6 statewide Literacy Coaches who are designing integrated, hybrid, knowledge-based professional development for Reading Specialists that will launch Fall 2023.
- Continued to overhaul the statewide literacy screener in English and Spanish; will pilot with 17 school divisions in 2023-2024 with full statewide implementation slated for 2024-2025.
- Joined *The Path Forward* initiative to engage higher education and national experts in aligning educator preparation and endorsement programming.
- Increased awareness via multiple webinars, memos, meetings, and conference sessions, and launched VLA-specific website.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT

Implementing the VLA successfully requires building partnerships, securing buy-in, and ensuring the perspectives of leaders, educators, experts, and families are fully included. Here are the key ways the VDOE is engaging stakeholders:

- Conducting quarterly meetings with the Virginia Literacy Act Advisory Work Group that includes a broad set of stakeholders (33) to solicit their insights and feedback.
- Engaging Virginia literacy experts and educators through the instructional program review process.
- Continuing to engage Task Force that is advising the pilot of Virginia's New Literacy Screener.
- Consulting with a commission of independent literacy experts and stakeholders on definitions and expectations for educator preparation program of coursework and the student mastery.
- Ensuring cross-group collaboration with Virginia's English Education Advisory Board (EEAB) that will help review Standards of Learning (SOL).
- Conducting outreach within existing structures including conferences, webinars, regional meetings, and other events and activities.

READING SPECIALIST REQUIREMENTS

- A staffing ratio of 1 Reading Specialist for every 550 students in grades kindergarten through grade three. This ratio is effective beginning in the 2024-25 school year. It is funded within the Standards of Quality (SOQ) and was included in Basic Aid payments to local school divisions beginning in the 2022-2023 school year.
- Each such reading specialist shall have training in science-based reading research and evidence-based literacy instruction practices.
- Each reading specialist shall have training in the identification of and the appropriate interventions, accommodations, and teaching techniques for students with dyslexia or a related disorder and shall serve as an advisor on dyslexia and related disorders.
- The reading specialist plays a critical role, in consultation with classroom teachers, to coordinate and oversee intervention for students not meeting literacy benchmarks.
- A reading specialist, in collaboration with the teacher of any student who receives reading intervention services, shall develop, oversee implementation of, and monitor student progress on a student reading plan.
- The VLA also provides for regional literacy coaches (staffed through VLP) to provide professional development and implementation support to division literacy personnel and reading specialists.
- The VDOE is currently working on a microcredential program in the reading specialist endorsement area

Overview of the Statewide Training for Reading Specialists

Support & Training for VA Reading Specialists



Virginia Literacy Partnerships

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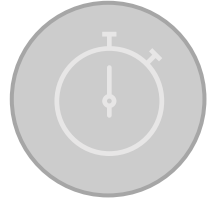
VALUE
Professional
Learning Series



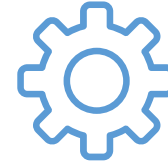
Reading
Institutes



Canvas
Course



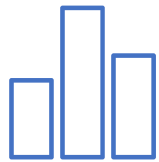
On-Call and
Office Hours



In-Person
Reading Institute



10 Coaches providing
On-site support for
Reading Specialists &
Educators

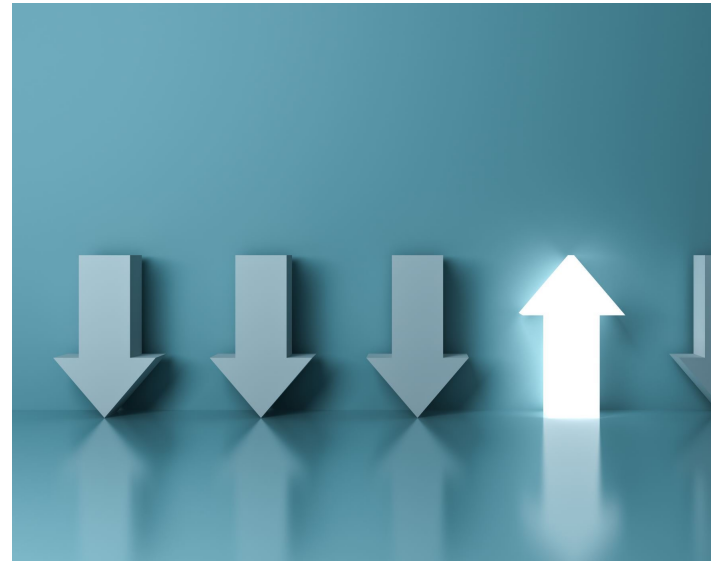


9-month
Hybrid Canvas
Course



Support for
Division Literacy Plans &
Student Reading
Plans

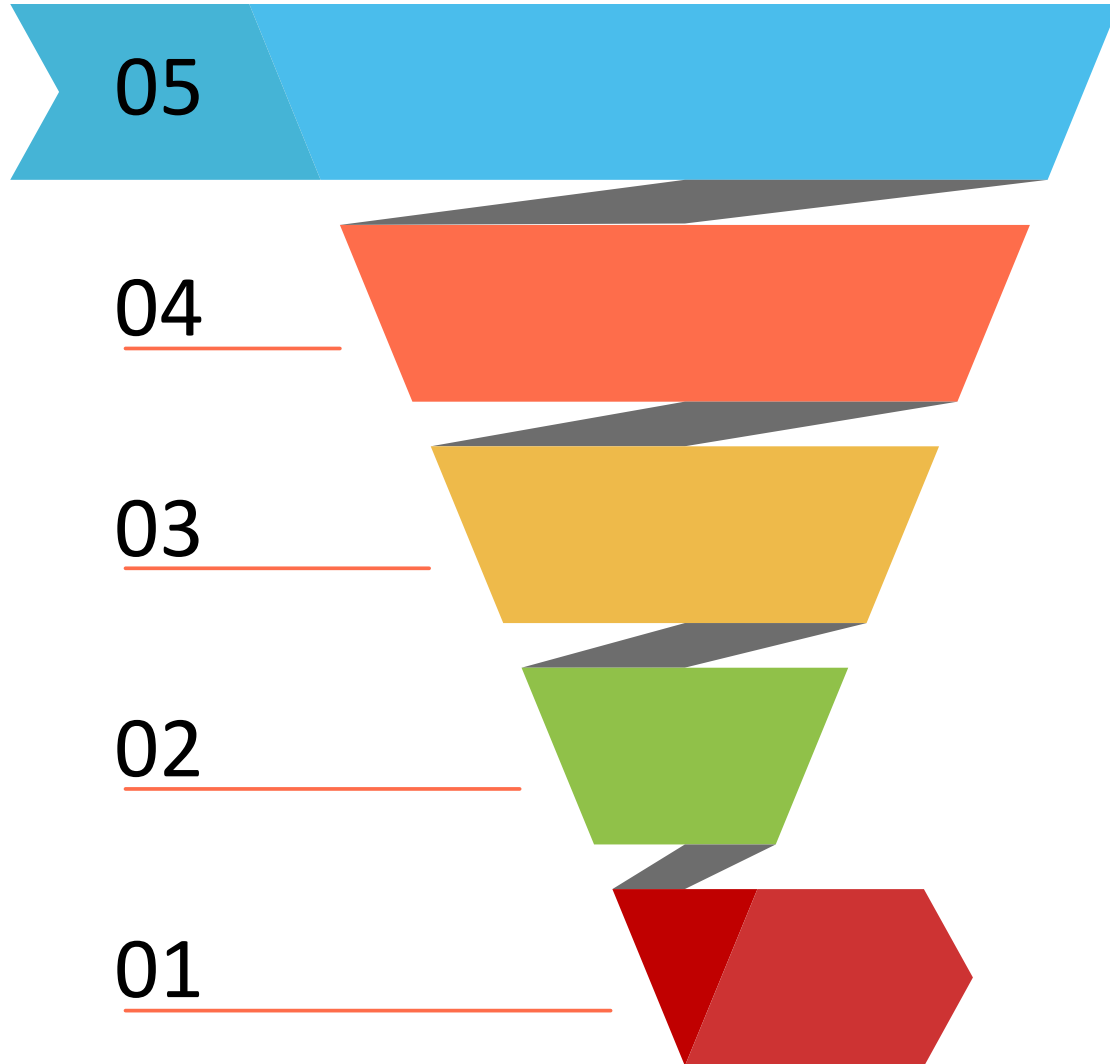
VALUE
PROFESSIONAL
LEARNING SERIES





Click to view overview video:
<https://literacy.virginia.edu/value-series>

Spiraling PD Options



Professional Learning Guides



Research/Resources



Instructional Protocols & Video Models



Webinar – Deeper Dive



Short Video/Infographic

Infographics



Instructional Protocols & Videos

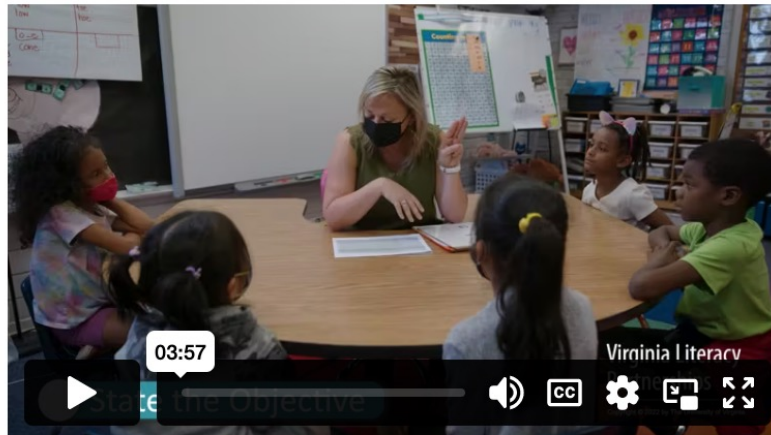
**BLENDING 2
PHONEME WORDS
(STOP SOUNDS)**

**BLENDING 2
PHONEME WORDS
USING SOUND
BOXES**

**BLENDING 3
PHONEME WORDS
(MIXED SOUNDS)**

/ WATCH BLENDING/PUTTING TOGETHER ACTIVITIES IN ACTION /

**Blending 3 Phoneme
Words (Mixed Sounds)**



**Blending 2 Phoneme
Words (Stop Sounds)**



Research,
Resources,
& White
Papers



Phonemic Awareness

W H I T E P A P E R

Virginia Literacy Partnerships



SCHOOL of EDUCATION
and HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

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Professional Learning Guides

Professional Learning Guide



PHONEMIC AWARENESS

New to learning about phonemic awareness? Select activities from Option A. A little more experienced with the topic? Look at Option B ideas. Or pick and choose the items that best meet the needs of your teachers!

Direct links to all activities and resources can be found at the bottom of this page.

Option A

Option B

Share the phonemic awareness infographic.

**Step 1
Prime the Team**

Share the phonemic awareness infographic and the phonemic awareness microlesson.

Play "Find Someone Who" to practice counting phonemes.

**Step 2
Anchor the Team**

Watch the "44 Phonemes" video. Use the viewing guide to stop and ask questions. Then do the "Find Someone Who" activity.

Family Resources in English & Spanish

NOTICIAS PARA LAS FAMILIAS

Conciencia fonológica

¡Escuche!

¿QUÉ ES LA CONCIENCIA FONOLÓGICA?

Aprender a escuchar los "sonidos" que forman las palabras, prepara a los estudiantes para leer y deletrear palabras. El conocimiento fonológico es la habilidad de identificar y manipular los sonidos del habla. Los niños comienzan con la capacidad de percibir unidades más largas de sonidos (palabras completas), y gradualmente logran reconocer unidades más cortas de sonidos (fonemas).

La conciencia fonológica incluye el reconocimiento de :

- Rima: /beso/ y /queso/
- Sílabas: /co/ /ra/ /zón/
- Segmentación de inicio: /g/ /ato/
- Fonemas: /g /a/ /t/ /o/

¿QUÉ ES LA CONCIENCIA FONÉMICA?

La conciencia fonémica es un subconjunto del conocimiento fonológico. Es la habilidad de identificar y manipular sonidos individuales en el habla.

Fonemas:

/m/ /a/ /m/ /á/ /b/ /o/ /t/ /a/

/p/ /e/ /l/ /o/ /t/ /a/ /b/ /ai/ /l/ /a/ /t/



¿POR QUÉ TIENE IMPORTANCIA?



¿CÓMO PUEDO APOYAR EL DESARROLLO DE LA CONCIENCIA FONOLÓGICA DE MI HIJO/A?



¿CUÁLES SON ALGUNAS ACTIVIDADES QUE SE PUEDE HACER EN CASA O DENTRO DE LA COMUNIDAD?

Veo, veo	Usando objetos alrededor de la casa y la comunidad diga, "Veo... un /v/ /a/ /s/ /o/. ¿Qué es?"	Búsqueda de sonidos	Dé al niño/a un sonido, dígame que debe buscar objetos que comiencen o terminen con ese sonido. Pueden buscar objetos en revistas, alrededor de la casa o en el vecindario mientras caminan o juegan.
Estoy pensando en...	"Estoy pensando en una palabra que empieza con el sonido /s/ y está en la estufa. Sí, sartén!"	Licudora de palabras	Diga los sonidos individuales de una palabra. Presione un "botón" en el/la niño/a para que comience a girar como si fuera una licudora. Cuando vuelva a presionar el "botón" él/ella debe parar de girar y decir la palabra que ha formado.
Juego de nombres	¡Utilice los nombres! "Tú eres Timmy, Timmy empieza con /t/. Timmy es tierno. Yo soy Pamela. Pamela empieza con..." Anime al niño/a a terminar el patrón.	Contar con cardio:	Comparta una oración con el/la niño/a. Cuente el número de palabras en la oración, dando un salto por cada palabra.
Carrera de sonidos	Coloque algunos objetos (o fotos) en el piso. Pida a los niños que esperen en un lugar. Usted dirá el sonido de una letra, y ellos correrán a buscar los objetos que comiencen o terminen con ese sonido.	De compras con sílabas	Mientras hagan las compras, pídale al niño/a que aplauda o que cuente el número de sílabas de cada objeto en el carrito de compra.

VALUE Packages Already Launched



01

Science-based
Reading
Research

02

Explicit
Instruction

03

Data
Literacy

04

Language
Development

05

Phonemic
Awareness

06

Fluency

VALUE Packages in Progress



01

Culturally
and
Linguistically
Diverse
Students

02

Phonics

03

Vocabulary
& Oral
Language

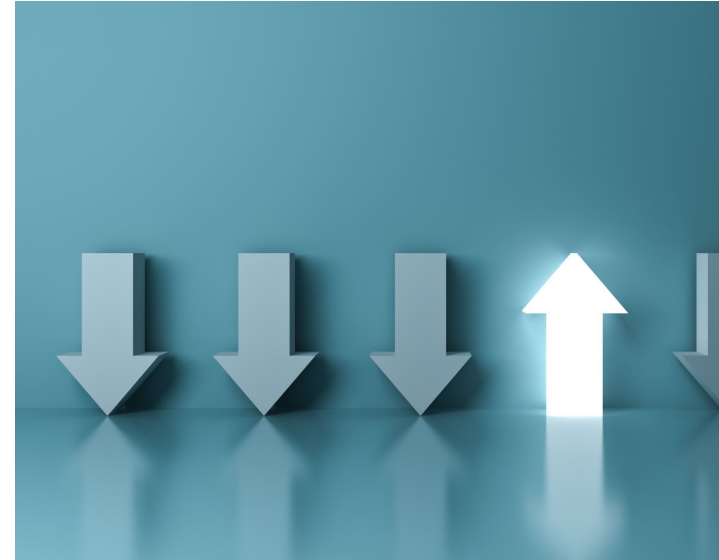
04

Reading
Comprehension

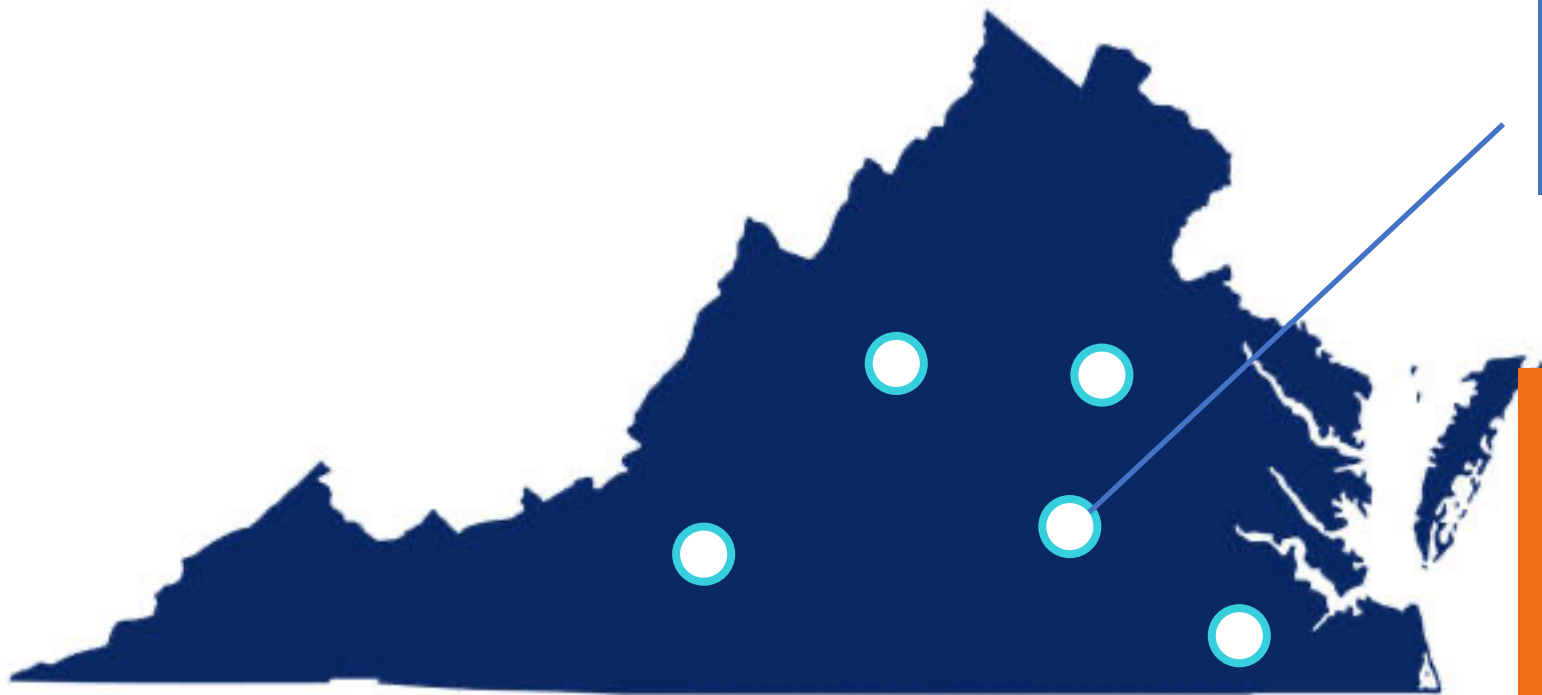
05

Effective
Small
Group
Instruction

Reading Institutes



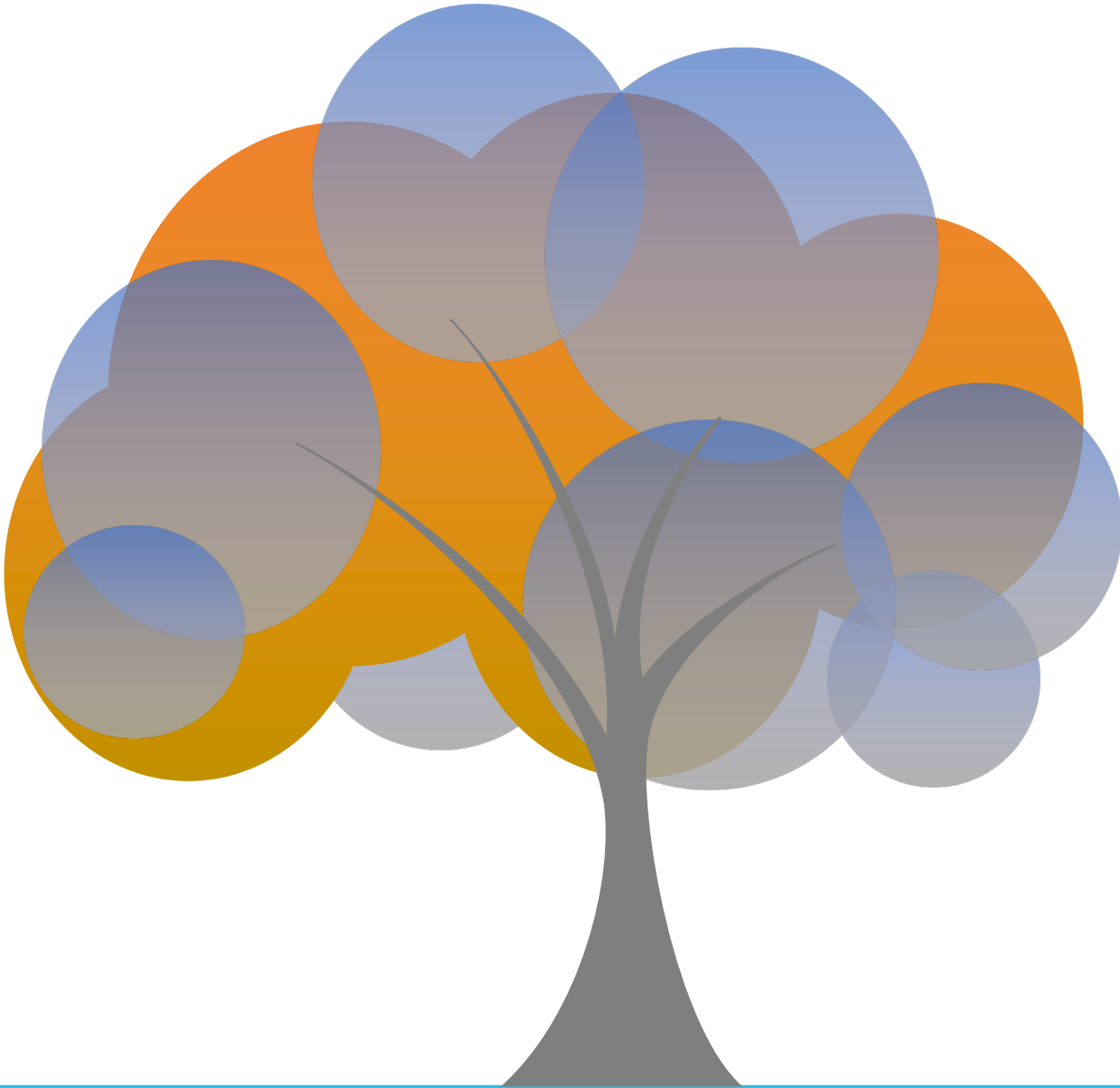
Reading Institutes



5 Cities
2 Days Each

- Radford/Roanoke - Aug 17 & 18
- Charlottesville - Aug 21 & 22
- Fairfax- Aug 24 & 25
- Richmond - Aug 29 & 30
- Newport News - Sept 7 & 8

Reading Institutes



Whole
Group
Sessions

Specifically
addressing
needs in
the field

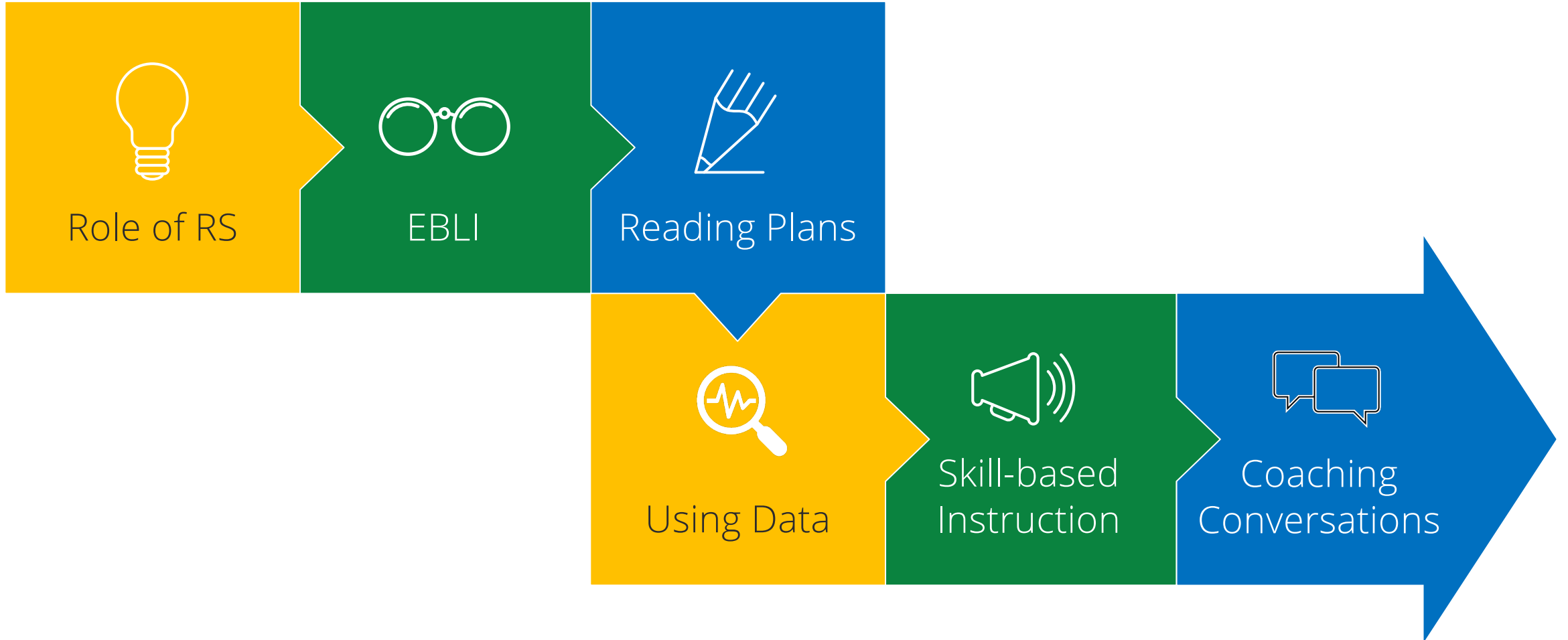
Break
Out
Sessions

Led by
Literacy
Coaches and
PD Team

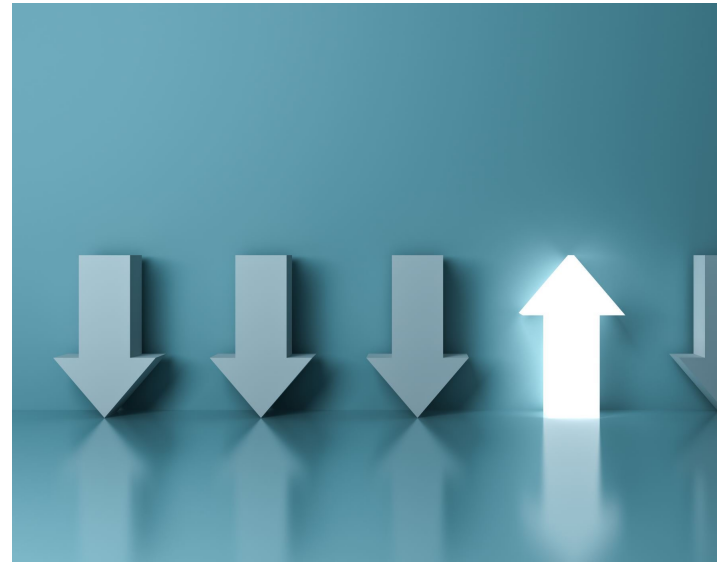
Institute Topics



Practical Application



CANVAS COURSE



Canvas Modules



READING SCIENCE
& EXPLICIT
INSTRUCITON



DATA
LITERACY



PHONOLOGICAL
AWARENESS



TARGETED
INSTRUCTION



FLUENCY



PHONICS



VOCABULARY
& ORAL
LANGUAGE

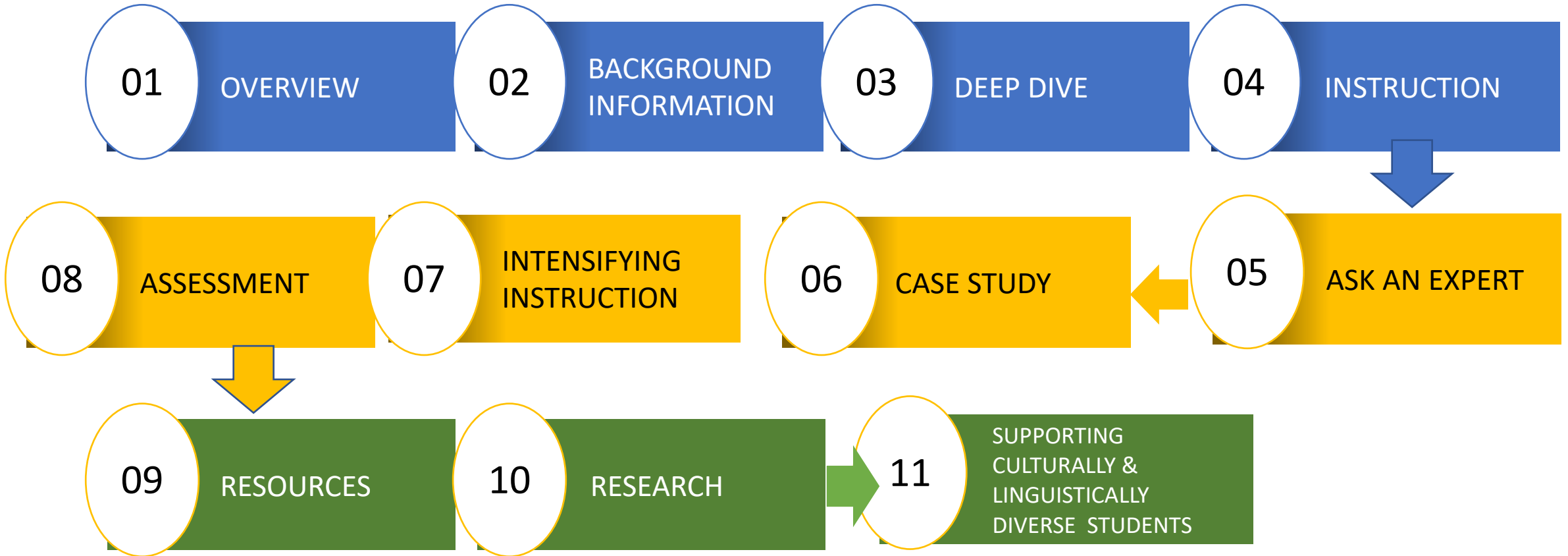


COMPREHENSION



COACHING NEXT STEPS

Canvas Module Components



Zoom Meetings with Regional Coaches & Office Hours



Thank you!



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Frequently Asked Questions