

Oklahoma Science of Reading Academies Evidence-Based Literacy Communities of Practice (LitCoP) FAQ

As an extension to the Oklahoma Science of Reading Academies (SORA), the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) is excited to offer another opportunity for Oklahoma's teachers. The purpose of the Oklahoma Science of Reading Academies is to increase the reading outcomes for elementary students by providing quality, job-embedded professional learning on the science of reading to educators supporting students learning or struggling to read. Through the Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction Communities of Practice (LitCoP), participants will be able to complete an asynchronous 9-module science of reading course via OSDE connect and participate in synchronous virtual sessions with literacy specialists of Oklahoma.

The Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) is investing funds to compensate qualified participants for their completion of the Oklahoma Science of Reading Academies Evidence-Based Literacy Communities of Practice (LitCoP) training. The OSDE will provide a stipend of \$600 to each participant who completes the LitCoP program and provides the appropriate supporting documentation to the OSDE.

DUE DATES:

- All online modules must be completed by 11/20/2026.
- Attendance to all 5 live sessions must be completed by 11/20/2026.
- Final artifact must be submitted by 11/20/2026.
- All signed stipend invoices must be returned to OSDE by 12/11/2026.

WHY IS THIS NEEDED?

The impact of COVID-19 has been pronounced among early learners, for whom development of reading and writing skills is critical to success in all subjects and later grades. To counteract unfinished learning, the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) is continuing to offer Oklahoma Science of Reading Academies for educators.

HOW WILL THIS PROFESSIONAL LEARNING WORK?

Oklahoma is offering this no-cost professional development opportunity to up to 150 educators working with students learning or struggling to read with priority given to those working in high-need schools. This cohort will engage in professional learning that covers 9 modules on essential literacy instruction topics, including phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, comprehension, writing, and assessment.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO REGISTER?

All educators who teach reading or work with elementary students in Oklahoma public schools are eligible to apply. This is not limited to certified teachers; paraprofessionals and school administrators are welcome to apply as well. Priority will be granted to those working in high needs schools.

ARE TEACHERS REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE?

No, this program is not required for teachers to complete. This extension of SORA is in place to help educators utilize evidence-based approaches designed to improve reading and writing proficiency. Because reading and writing proficiently are building blocks to future academic success and in postsecondary pursuits, the Science of Reading Academies will provide educators with tools to help students be successful lifelong readers and writers.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIRED COMPONENTS FOR COMPLETION OF LITCOP?

There are **3** required components to complete the LitCoP Fall 2025 course to receive the stipend and micro-credential:

- 1**-Completion of the 9 online modules via OSDE Connect
- 2**-Attendance and Participation in all 5 Live training sessions
- 3**-Submission of a Final Artifact

WHAT SHOULD EDUCATORS WHO PARTICIPATE EXPECT?

Participants will spend approximately 2-3 hours each week in asynchronous instruction, including videos and independent reading. Participants will also attend five 1-hour synchronous sessions with facilitators.

WHY SHOULD TEACHERS PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAM?

Participating educators will be equipped with evidence-based professional development they can use in their classrooms throughout their careers to help students build literacy skills. Additionally, participants who fully complete the program will receive a micro-credential in early literacy and a stipend of \$600 upon completion.

HOW DO PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROGRAM RECEIVE THEIR STIPEND PAYMENT?

Step 1: Upon completion of the LitCop program, including submission of your final artifact, completion of all online modules with a score of 75% or higher, and attendance verification for all 5 live sessions, participants will apply using the [LitCoP Fall 2026 Stipend Application Form](#). This form requires accurate contact information as well as submission of your online course completion certificate to the OSDE.

Note: This form must be completed as it provides the information necessary to communicate with teachers/districts and ensure they receive their stipend payments.

Step 2: Once all supporting documentation has been received by the OSDE from the participant, the OSDE will send an invoice to the district financial contact. Districts will need to keep a copy of these invoices for their records to help with payment disbursement. Not all pay codes will include the participant’s name.

Step 3: The OSDE will receive the signed invoice back from the district financial contact using this [District Invoice Submission form](#).

Step 4: The district will receive payment from OSDE and disperse those funds to the participant

Note: Funds may not be received by a district until approximately 45 days after invoice submission. Districts will pay teachers as quickly as possible after receiving funds.

HOW DO I FIND MY COMPLETION CERTIFICATE?

Please review the OSDE Connect certificate [step-by-step guide](#).

WHAT DEDUCTIONS ARE THE STIPEND PAYMENTS SUBJECT TO?

OSDE is covering the district’s FICA costs. The payment will be subject to an individual’s state taxes.

WHAT ARE THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR TEACHERS TO RECEIVE THEIR STIPEND PAYMENT?

- The participant must be currently employed in an Oklahoma Public School
- The participant must have completed all Online modules as well as attended all required webinars.
- The participant must have scored a 75% or higher on their online modules.
- The participant must submit and receive approval of their final artifact.
- Participants must meet all requirements to qualify.

IS THERE A DEADLINE TO SUBMIT DOCUMENTS FOR THE STIPEND PAYMENT?

District financial contact must submit the signed invoice using the **District Invoice Submission form** no later than **December 11th, 2026**.

WHAT SHOULD I LOOK FOR WHEN RECEIVING A PAYMENT?

Depending on district preference, payment will either be sent electronically or by mail. **Districts, please keep the initial invoice for your records, not all pay codes will include the teacher's name.**

ARE INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING THE PAYMENT SUBJECT TO TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM (TRS)?

The Oklahoma Science of Reading Academies LitCoP Stipend is not considered “regular annual compensation” under either 17-101 or rule 10-13-1 and is not subject to contributions to TRS.

WHAT PAY CODES ARE APPLICABLE?

Districts should use the **HEROES Literacy Instructional Team Project Code (304), Function 2213, Object Code 170, and Source code 3415.**

For questions regarding the SORA Oklahoma Literacy Communities of Practice, please contact the Oklahoma Literacy team at **literacy@sde.ok.gov**.

For questions regarding the Oklahoma Science of Reading Academies LitCoP stipend payment, please contact **Dylan.Savage@sde.ok.gov** and **Madison.Trussell@sde.ok.gov**.