

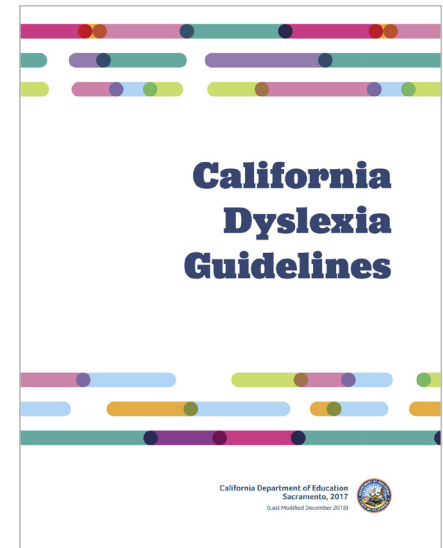
# California Dyslexia Initiative

Project Lead: Sacramento County Office of Education

## Background

California has devoted increasing attention and resources to the needs of students with dyslexia in recent years. In 2017, the *California Dyslexia Guidelines* were published with the goal of improving educational services and supports for students with dyslexia. The California Dyslexia Initiative (CDI) is a continuation of these efforts. The 2020–21 state budget included \$4 million dollars to fund the CDI and promote the development of dyslexia-related resources for California students and educators.

After an application and interview process, the California Department of Education (CDE), the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence (CCEE), and the State Board of Education (SBE) selected the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) to lead this work. The University of California San Francisco (UCSF) Dyslexia Center was selected as the IHE partner.



## Goals

The goals of the CDI include:

- Building capacity within the Statewide System of Support to support school districts, County Offices of Education (COEs), and charter schools in providing early intervention and supports for students with specific learning disabilities such as dyslexia
- Identifying effective models for identification and treatment of specific learning disabilities
- Developing and delivering professional development on evidence-based instruction and strategies informed by research
- Developing partnerships between school districts, COEs, and charter schools
- Using the Statewide System of Support structure to disseminate professional learning, resources, and information developed or identified by the CDI



# Project Overview

## Partnership with UCSF Dyslexia Center

UCSF is developing and testing *Multitudes*, a digital screening system to identify reading difficulties in order to provide reading intervention as early as possible and change the trajectory for millions of students who might otherwise fail.



## Implementation Sites

The Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE), in partnership with the UCSF Dyslexia Center, has identified three implementation sites in two districts to test and validate the digital screening system. The goal is to launch a validated system and accompanying resources in the fall of 2023.

## Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) Statewide Community of Practice (CoP)

- SCOE convened a statewide group to engage in a two-year LETRS professional learning opportunity. LETRS professional development is a blended learning series designed to provide educators with the background, depth of knowledge, and tools to teach language and literacy to all students. The course bridges deep, meaningful research into practical classroom success using text, online modules, and face-to-face training over a two-year period.
- The LETRS Statewide CoP includes County Office of Education content leads in English Language Arts (ELA), English Language Development (ELD), Special Education, district partners, and California Department of Education (CDE) colleagues.
- 38 County Offices of Education are represented from across California.
- CDI will be launching five additional cohorts in 2023–2024 including a UC/CSU cohort.
- Participants are invited to collaborate and connect about the professional learning during LETRS Huddles held the first Thursday of each month.

## Expert Webinar Series

- The CDI is offering free, expert webinars focused on why some students struggle to learn to read, how to recognize risk factors in your students, and how to support reading difficulties and dyslexia in the classroom.
- Companion Documents with follow-up discussion and activity guides accompany each webinar to support a deeper exploration of the content presented. Webinars are recorded and posted on the [CDI website](#).

**California Dyslexia Initiative**  
**2022–2023 Expert Webinar Series:**  
**Understanding Dyslexia & Literacy**

**Do you want to better understand how to support struggling readers and students with dyslexia in your school?**

Join us for a **FREE expert webinar series** hosted by the Sacramento County Office of Education, project lead for the California Dyslexia Initiative (CDI), in partnership with Client Education. Learn more about identifying risk factors, setting up effective MTSS/RTI school systems to prevent reading difficulties, and delivering research-based instruction to support and remediate struggling learners and students with dyslexia. Register for this **FREE**, seven-part webinar series and learn from our nation's experts as they build our understanding on how to support struggling readers in all tiers of instruction. Follow-up discussions and activity guides will accompany each webinar to support deeper exploration of the content presented.

**Webinar Series (RSVP will be sent prior to each webinar)**  
**Cost: No charge (hosted through CDE)**

**Audience:** Pre-K through Grade 12 Teachers, Teacher Leaders, Teachers on Special Assignment (TOSA), Instructional Coaches, Department Heads, RTI and/or Special Education Teachers, Instructional Support Staff, Site and District Leaders, Parents, Coaches, Counselors, and Tutors

**Understanding Dyslexia Within an MTSS Framework – Fall 2022**

| Date              | Time                    | Presenter  |
|-------------------|-------------------------|--|
| September 8, 2022 | 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, PST | Sharon Vaughn, Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin  |
| October 13, 2022  | 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, PST | Janelle Taylor, Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin |
| November 9, 2022* | 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, PST | Kar eam Weaver                                       |

**Kar eam Weaver**  
Oakland MAJCP Education Committee  
Dyslexia, Structured Literacy, and Equity  
Register here

**Building Systems That Support Struggling Readers and Students with Dyslexia**  
Register here

**Learning and Assessment Across Years of MTSS Competency**  
Register here

**Read the BETTER! article inside the Mission Brief to Change the Way We Teach to Read.**

- In the article, what stood out to you about the article, but important differences in the way readers taught to look at words through Balanced Literacy approach vs. Structured Literacy approach?
- Why is Structured Literacy a more supported approach for struggling readers and students with dyslexia?
- What role did dyslexia advocates in getting discussions in districts to bring interventions?

Logos for UCSF, SCOE, CCEE, and other partners are at the bottom.

## Professional Learning

Professional learning videos are posted on the CDI website with accompanying companion documents that allow viewers to further explore the topics presented.

Current videos include:

- Introduction to Dyslexia
- What Does It Mean to Be a Skilled Reader?
- Literacy Is a Human Right of the 21st Century
- Dyslexia: Understanding the Science and Proven Instructional Approaches

Zoom and face-to-face modules are in development and will be rolled out at statewide conferences.

### Dyslexia Training Series

In partnership with the Diagnostic Center, Northern California (DCN), CDI is hosting three sessions, repeated three times throughout the year (Fall, Winter, and Spring):

- Screening and Early Intervention for Struggling Readers and Students with Dyslexia
- Assessing for Dyslexia
- Academic Interventions: Intensifying Instruction for Struggling Readers and Students with Dyslexia

These sessions are open to the general public and are designed to provide information and resources to parents and educators seeking information on how to support their struggling readers and students with dyslexia.

### Professional Learning Network

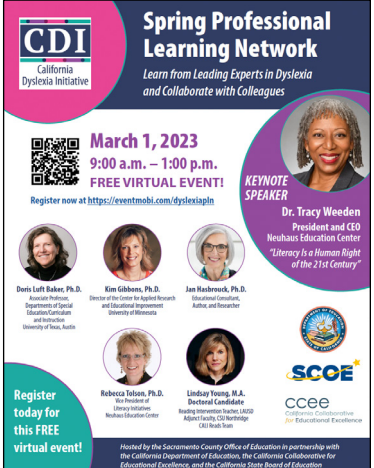
A goal of the CDI is to build capacity within the Statewide System of Support to support school districts, County Offices of Education (COEs), and charter schools. A statewide Professional Learning Network (PLN) held twice a year, fall and spring, is designed to meet this goal. The PLN kicks off with a keynote speaker, followed by breakout sessions that are repeated twice. In addition, job-alike discussion rooms allow participants to discuss how to apply what they've learned from the PLN in their own educational context.

To register for the spring 2023 virtual event, [click here](#).

## Reduce or Eliminate Severe Reading Problems

*“Through these combined efforts, great strides have been made in screening and intervention, and it is now becoming increasingly possible to prevent dyslexia. Again, when we say ‘prevent dyslexia,’ we do not mean to alter the neurological attributes that underlie dyslexia, but rather reduce or eliminate the severe reading problems that characterize the disorder.”*

– Catts & Hogan (2020)



The flyer for the Spring Professional Learning Network event features the CDI logo and the title "Spring Professional Learning Network". It includes the date "March 1, 2023" and the time "9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.", along with the text "FREE VIRTUAL EVENT!". A QR code is provided for registration, with the URL <https://eventmobi.com/dyslexia19h>. The keynote speaker is Dr. Tracy Weeden, President and CEO of the Neuhaus Education Center, with the theme "Literacy Is a Human Right of the 21st Century". Other speakers listed include Davis Loft Baker, Ph.D.; Kim Gibbons, Ph.D.; Jan Hasbrouck, Ph.D.; Rebecca Nelson, Ph.D.; and Lindsay Young, M.A. Logos for SCOE and ccee are also present. The event is hosted by the Sacramento County Office of Education in partnership with the California Department of Education, the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence, and the California State Board of Education.

## Communication Tools

The CDI created a [webpage](#) housed on the SCOE website to provide project updates and resources to support families and educators in all contexts to support students with reading difficulties and dyslexia. On this page, visitors can register for the expert webinar series and access webinar recordings, professional learning videos, and monthly rotating resources.

In addition to the CDI webpage, a repository of assessment tools and resources are housed on the CDI group page on the California Educators Together website. These resources are designed to help local educational agencies across the state identify and provide services and support to pupils with specific learning disabilities, such as dyslexia.

Ongoing communication includes quarterly newsletters and monthly resource spotlights that are sent through the CDI listserv. In addition, we utilize social media platforms to keep the field apprised of our work and professional learning opportunities available through the CDI.

## For More Information

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