

Aligning for Impact: Advancing Literacy Across After School and NYC Reads

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**ACTIVATING THE POWER
OF AFTERSCHOOL**



PASE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Aligning for Impact: Advancing Literacy Across After School and NYC Reads

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Welcome

Community Builder

Pick a poster at random—anyone you like.

Move to that spot in the room. When you arrive, connect with 2–3 people nearby and discuss:



If this were your grade and curriculum, what's an activity you could do in OST that connects to a likely theme? (Be playful! It can be a field trip, art project, literacy game, or guest speaker.)

Our Goals

- — Deepen understanding of NYC Reads and the Science of Reading.
- — Explore the vital role of OST professionals in advancing citywide literacy goals.
- — Draft an actionable next step to enhance literacy alignment within your program or organization.

Education's greatest challenges need engaged, coherent, and sustained ecosystems to bring about lasting change.

Agenda

- 1 Welcome _____ ●
- 2 Why Literacy, Why Now & NYC Reads _____ ●
- 3 Literacy Experiences In & Out of the School Day _____ ●
- 4 Gratitude & Close _____ ●

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Why Literacy, Why Now & NYC Reads

Illiteracy is a root cause for a range of educational and social challenges.

Kids who read by 4th grade are **4x** more likely to **graduate** high school.

Those who do not develop key literacy skills are...

More likely to interact with the **court system**.

More likely to have **chronic health issues**.

More likely to have **shorter life expectancies**.

And, when we set students up for literacy success, we set them up for...

Success **across**
academic
subjects.

Economic **mobility**
and opportunities
to **choose** their
career path.

Meaningful **civic**
engagement, and
ability to **think**
critically about
social issues.

NYC Reads drives toward an ambitious and attainable goal

By 2035, all NYCPS students will be thriving readers and writers.

North Star Vision Each and every NYCPS student is literate and prepared to pursue their unique postsecondary and career goals.

We started in the school system.

NYC Reads launched in 2023, focused on building in-school structures to last.

By 2035, all NYCPS students will be thriving readers and writers.

Curriculum + Intervention

Evidence-based curriculum and intervention within a multi-tiered system of support to improve outcomes for all students

Comprehensive Assessment

Universal screening, diagnostic screening, and progress monitoring to tailor instruction students' needs

Professional Learning

Ongoing, support to build lasting content knowledge, pedagogical skills, and leadership

Leadership + Systems

Systems and conditions for shifts in literacy practice (e.g., family partnership, resource management)

NYC Reads has created a new starting line.

By 2035, all NYCPS
students will be
thriving readers and
writers.

With NYC Reads, we now...

Have a shared framework for evidence based
literacy practices

Know what all PK-5 students are learning in their
literacy block

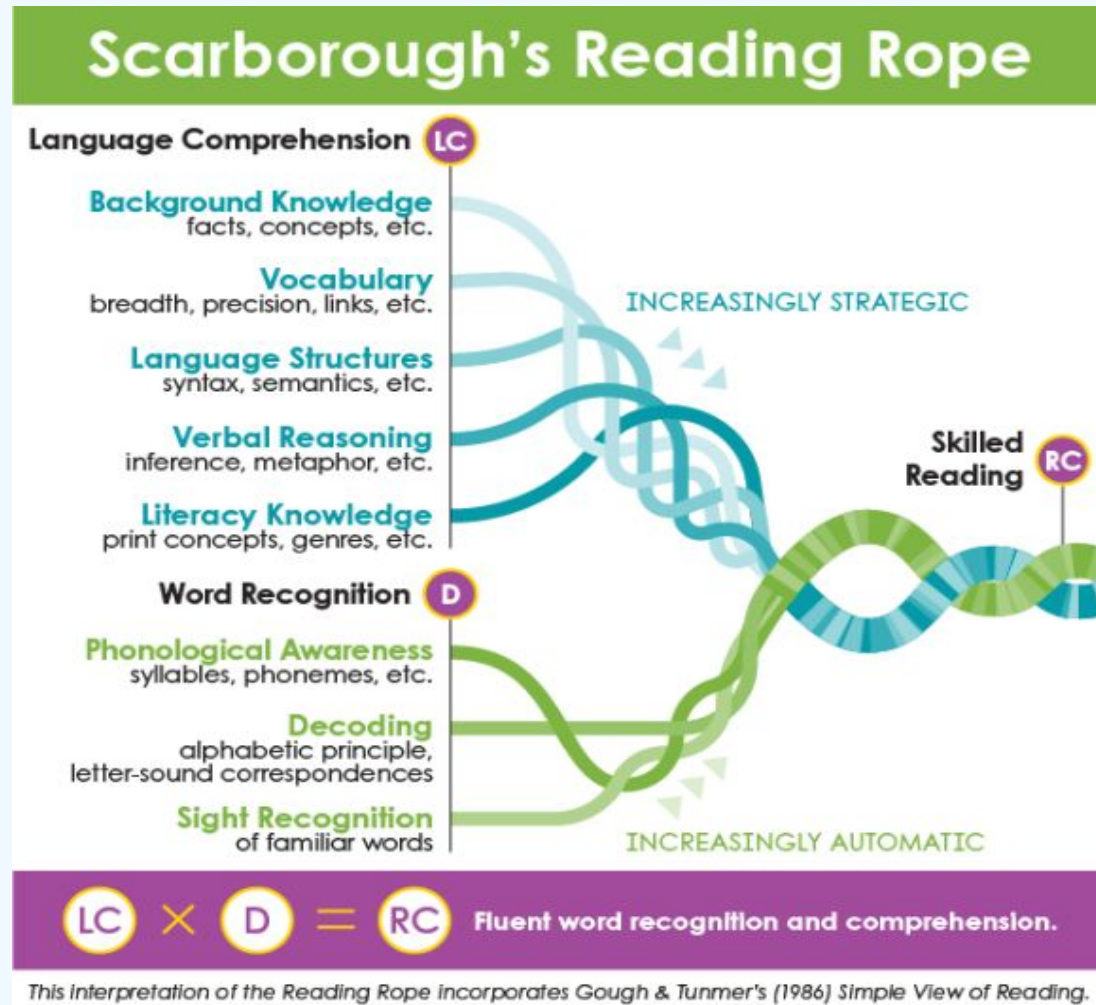
Have an accurate picture of each student's reading
needs through universal screening

NYC Reads utilizes shared, evidence-based practices grounded in the Science of Reading. Instead of focusing on isolated skills, it emphasizes the interconnected components of reading, as illustrated by the Scarborough Reading Rope.



This interpretation of the Reading Rope incorporates Gough & Tunmer's (1986) Simple View of Reading.

Literacy Opportunity in After School Programming



Every strand of the Reading Rope can be strengthened outside the classroom.

- Building background knowledge through cross-disciplinary STEAM clubs
- Expanding vocabulary through culinary arts
- Building on language structures via performing arts
- Enhancing fluency through tutoring or read-aloud practice
- Practicing phonological awareness by rhyming in music

Literacy Opportunity in After School Programming



Turn & Talk with your neighbor, where do you see the parts of this rope already happening in your programming?

**Out of school time is
a critical pillar in
building literacy for
all young people.**

Young people spend **less than 20% of their time in school.**

And research suggests that when students receive different guidance in different settings, it's more difficult for students to gain new skills.

More coherence could benefit kids. **But more coherence ≠ "more school."**

Out of school time is an opportunity

Out of school time is a critical pillar in building literacy for all young people.

Out-of-school time programming can lead to positive academic outcomes including significant literacy gains, **especially for students who struggle the most to learn.**

Stronger connections between OST programming and the school day lead to even more positive academic outcomes for students.

There are **examples of strong school day - OST learning connections** around the country and in this room that we can learn from and spread.

3

Literacy Experiences In and Out of the School Day

Aligning for Impact

OST programming augments and supports what students are learning and doing in school, including

how they are taught (ex: science of reading) and

what they are learning about (ex: topics and skills).

What does aligning for
impact in literacy **look like**?

Alignment in Action



Meet Mya, a 4th grade student at PS 086 and a participant in RiseBoro Youth Center programming.

Mya's school uses the curriculum HMH Into Reading.

Based on the NYC Reads [Pacing Guide](#), we can see that Mya will start the year learning in Module 1: What Makes Us Who We Are? Their essential question is "How do your experiences help shape your identity?"

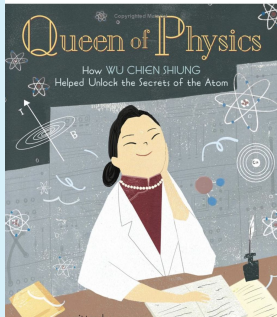
Module	Theme/ Essential Question	Text Genre
Module 1- September 10th- October 17th	What Makes Us Who We Are? How do your experiences help shape your identity?	Realistic Fiction Informational Text Fantasy Narrative Poetry Folklore
Module 2- October 18th- November 27th	Rise to the Occasion What does it take to meet a challenge?	Biography Argumentative Text Historical Fiction Informational Text/Interview Play Autobiographical Fiction
Module 3-	Heroic Feats	Realistic Fiction



Check out a snapshot of my day!

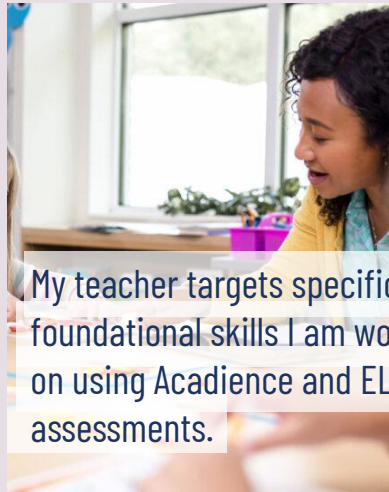
In my morning literacy block

I am reading the book *Queen of Physics*, about Wu Chien Shiung - a famous female physicist who overcame prejudice and helped to unlock the secrets of the atom



I think I might want to be a scientist someday too!

In the afternoon, I go to small group **intervention**.



My teacher targets specific foundational skills I am working on using Acadience and EL assessments.

After school, I head to RiseBoro Youth Center.

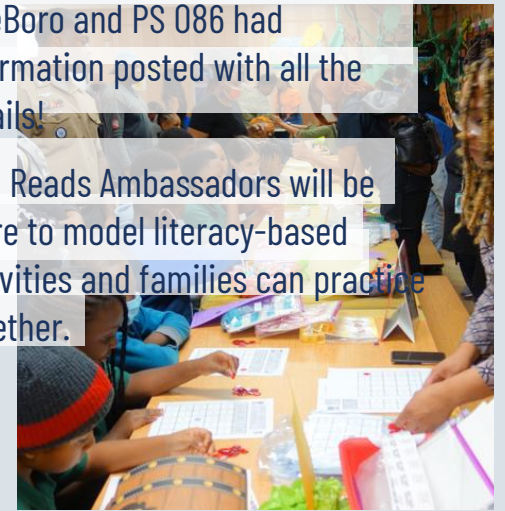
Today I am meeting with my Literacy Club, which has an Around the World course that focuses on reading and writing activities to enhance language skills of predominantly Spanish-speaking students like me!

Today we are continuing work on our journal reflections. I am writing about my family history and traditions.

Over the weekend, my family is going to a **Family Literacy Event** at the library.

RiseBoro and PS 086 had information posted with all the details!

NYC Reads Ambassadors will be there to model literacy-based activities and families can practice together.



Alignment in Action



- Where did you see alignment across the student's literacy experience in the model? (e.g., alignment to the Science of Reading, consistent use of texts or themes, shared goals)
- What might you infer about the impact on the student's literacy growth over time?

Let's Try It On – Planning Aligned, Knowledge-Rich Activities

We're going to try out a protocol from the NYC OST Literacy Toolkit that helps teams:

- Connect with the NYC Reads curriculum used at your school
- Explore module themes and content
- Generate enrichment activities that build knowledge, extend vocabulary, and bring literacy to life in OST

This is about coherence, not duplication—how can OST activities support what students are learning in school in joyful, creative ways?



Momentum & Action for a Fully Literate School-Age Population in NYC
Supporting Literacy Coherence In and Out of the School Day

Generating Knowledge-Rich Activities Aligned to NYC Reads Curriculum

Purpose:

To support OST providers in planning content-rich, engaging activities that align with the NYCPS literacy curriculum used in their district. This protocol helps teams brainstorm ideas by curriculum, grade, and module theme to ensure coherence with school-day learning.

Step 1: Gather Curriculum Information (10-15 minutes)

- Identify which literacy curriculum your school(s) use: EL Education, Wit & Wisdom, or Into Reading.
- Download or reference the scope and sequence or module overviews by grade level.

Tip: Ask your school leader or literacy point person for the latest pacing guide or module map for your site.

Step 2: Select a Focus Grade and Module (5 minutes)

Choose a grade level and current or upcoming module theme (e.g., Grade 3, EL Education Module 2: Adaptations and the Wide World of Frogs).

Step 3: Review the Theme and Key Content (10-15 minutes)

As a team, read the module summary or essential question. Discuss:

- What is the theme or big idea students are exploring?
- What texts, vocabulary, or content are they encountering?
- What background knowledge is being built?

Step 4: Brainstorm OST-Aligned Activities (20-30 minutes)



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Step 1 10–15 minutes

Gather Curriculum Information

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EL Education

Into Reading

Wit & Wisdom

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Find your district, identify which curriculum they are using.

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Use the prompts below to generate enrichment ideas that support and extend the theme:

Literacy Connection	Activity Ideas	Notes
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EL Education

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Wit & Wisdom

- Download or reference the scope and sequence or module overviews by grade level.



Find your district, identify which curriculum they are using.

Scan the QR code, download the Pacing Guide for your district

Curriculum	Borough: District #s
HMH Into Reading	Manhattan: 4, 5 Bronx: 8, 9, 10, 12 Brooklyn: 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 32 Queens: 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 Staten Island: 31
Wit & Wisdom	Manhattan: 2, 3 Brooklyn: 18, 19
EL Education	Manhattan: 1, 6 Bronx: 7, 11 Brooklyn: 13

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Step 4: Brainstorm OST-Aligned Activities (20–30 minutes)

Use the prompts below to generate enrichment ideas that support and extend the theme:

Literacy Connection	Activity Ideas	Notes
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Step 2 5 minutes

Select a Focus Grade and Module

Choose a grade level and current or upcoming module theme (e.g., Grade 3, EL Education Module 2: Adaptations and the Wide World of Frogs).

5th Grade - Module 1

Step 1: Gather Curriculum Information (10–15 minutes)

- Identify which literacy curriculum your school(s) use: EL Education, Wit & Wisdom, or Into Reading.
- Download or reference the scope and sequence or module overviews by grade level.

Tip: Ask your school leader or literacy point person for the latest pacing guide or module map for your site.

Step 2: Select a Focus Grade and Module (5 minutes)

Choose a grade level and current or upcoming module theme (e.g., Grade 3, EL Education Module 2: Adaptations and the Wide World of Frogs)

Step 3: Review the Theme and Key Content (10–15 minutes)

As a team, read the module summary or essential question. Discuss:

- What is the theme or big idea students are exploring?
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Step 4: Brainstorm OST-Aligned Activities (20–30 minutes)

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---------------------	----------------	-------

Step 3 10–15 minutes

Review the Theme and Key Content

As a team, read the module summary or essential question. Discuss:

What is the theme or big idea students are exploring?

Inventors at Work

What kinds of circumstances push people to create new inventions?

What texts, vocabulary, or content are they encountering?

FILL IN

What background knowledge is being built?

FILL IN

Step 4: Brainstorm OST-Aligned Activities (20-30 minutes)

Use the prompts below to generate enrichment ideas that support and extend the theme:

Literacy Connection	Activity Ideas	Notes
Build Background Knowledge	Field trips, guest speakers, multimedia, museum kits, research projects	
Extend Vocabulary	Word games, movement activities, art projects using key words	
Explore the Theme Creatively	Theater, music, STEM challenges, storytelling	
Reinforce Core Concepts	Book clubs, read-alouds, discussion circles, journaling	

Step 5: Share and Refine (15-20 minutes)

Present your ideas to the full team or school partners. Ask:

- How might this align with what’s happening during the school day?
- What can we co-plan or co-communicate with school staff?
- What resources or support do we need?

Step 4 20-30 minutes

Brainstorm OST-Aligned Activities

Use the prompts below to generate enrichment ideas that support and extend the theme:

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5

Gratitude & Close

Thank you!

Please fill out our feedback
survey using the QR code.

