

**INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE**  
**Los Angeles Unified School District**  
**Division of Instruction/Division of Special Education**

**TO:** Elementary School Principals

**DATE:** February 8, 2021

**FROM:** Carlen Powell   
Administrator, Elementary Instruction, Division of Instruction

Dr. Maribel Luna   
Senior Director, Division of Special Education

**SUBJECT: STRUCTURED LITERACY - ORTON-GILLINGHAM ON-DEMAND TRAINING FOR SCHOOL TEAMS**

As we prepare for next school year, the purpose of this correspondence is to communicate that the Division of Instruction and the Division of Special Education are collaborating to provide professional development for teams of five teachers at each elementary school on the *Orton-Gillingham Approach*.

**BACKGROUND:**

As many as 1 in 5 students have characteristics of dyslexia, as such, it is critical that we support our teachers in applying the research-based, multisensory strategies that empower our students to learn how to read. The *Orton-Gillingham Approach* focuses on how to teach reading using the principles of a Structured Literacy Approach which includes explicit, systematic, and cumulative instruction in foundational reading skills.

**RATIONALE:**

L.A. Unified's goal continues to be Proficiency for All. Reading is a civil right and 100% of our students deserve to have proficient literacy, numeracy and critical thinking skills. Part of the L.A. Unified's Primary Promise initiative is the commitment to establish this strong foundation for all early learners no later than the end of the third grade.

**OPPORTUNITY:**

This Professional Development is essential in providing support to our students with characteristics of Dyslexia as well as students reading below benchmark. The 40-hour professional development is a combination of 30 hours of asynchronous learning and 10 hours of synchronous implementation support. All participants will receive access to a 30-hour On-Demand *Orton-Gillingham Educator Course* that they complete at a recommended pace over the course of three months. Teachers will also participate in five two-hour synchronous implementation support sessions (10 hours total) every two weeks. To reinforce learning and provide support, optional office hours will be offered.

Teachers will attend the PD during their non-contractual time and will be compensated at training rate or are eligible to receive one salary point upon completion of the 40-hour course (30 hours asynchronous and 10 hours synchronous). To learn more about the Orton-Gillingham Approach, please visit this [website](#) and watch the five-minute overview video for administrators. To learn more about this opportunity from the Division of Instruction and Division of Special Education, please join us for office hours on February 16<sup>th</sup> or February 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. Register on MyPLN with keyword OG Admin.

Selected teachers will be emailed directly information on how to access the asynchronous 30-hour course. Synchronous two-hour sessions (10 hours total) will be held on a variety of days from 3:00-5:00 during the following weeks. Selected teachers will be emailed directions on how to enroll on MyPLN for the synchronous sessions.

March 15, 2021

April 5, 2021

April 19, 2021

May 3, 2021

May 17, 2021

#### **SCHOOL TEAM/ATTENDEES:**

To promote success in implementation, collaboration, and sustainability, five teachers at each school site are encouraged to participate as a team. This team should be composed of a diverse group of literacy leaders at your school, including at least one Special Education teacher, one out-of-classroom teacher, your Early Literacy and Language Program (ELLP) Designee, one primary grade teacher and/or one upper grade teacher. If applicable, the Primary Promise Intervention/Prevention Coordinator and the Primary Promise Instructional Aide should attend.

Every principal is expected to designate a team to participate in the training. Please use [the link](#) to indicate who will be participating from your school by **March 1, 2021**. Information on how to register will be sent to them directly using the information you include on the form. Thank you for your continued dedication and commitment to our students.

#### **STRUCTURED LITERACY MASTER DESIGN COLLABORATIVE:**

In order to support district-wide implementation, there is also an opportunity for 20 ELLP Designees from each Local District to participate in the Structured Literacy Master Design Collaborative. The Structured Literacy Master Design Collaborative participants are in addition to your school team. Participants will collaboratively calibrate, design, implement and refine model structured literacy lessons based on the Orton-Gillingham approach. From this group of 120 participants, 16 teacher leaders will be selected to facilitate the 10 hours of synchronous learning for School Teams attending the Orton-Gillingham Approach professional development.

Schools will be identified by the local district for participation in the Structured Literacy Master Design Collaborative. If you are interested in this opportunity, please use [this link](#) to complete an interest form for your school by **February 16, 2021**.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

For additional information or questions, please contact:

Mary Ann Sullivan, Coordinator, TK-12 Instruction, Division of Special Education, at [maryann.sullivan@lausd.net](mailto:maryann.sullivan@lausd.net), or Jakell Bell, Elementary Literacy Coordinator, Division of Instruction at [jnb1898@lausd.net](mailto:jnb1898@lausd.net).

Attachment A: Orton-Gillingham Training Salary Point Flyer

c: Anthony Aguilar  
Alison Yoshimoto-Towery  
Local District Superintendents  
Administrators of Instruction  
Community of School Administrators  
Local District Special Education Administrators

## Orton-Gillingham Training Salary Point Flyer

# On-Demand Orton-Gillingham Training with David Katz for TK-12 General and Special Education Teachers

*\*Earn 1 Salary Point\**

The 30-hour On-Demand Orton-Gillingham Classroom Educator Course is designed to introduce participants to the principles of the Orton-Gillingham (OG) approach. This instructional methodology improves the reading and spelling abilities of students in the general education setting, those with language-based learning disabilities, English language learners, and struggling readers.

In addition to the 30 hours of online coursework, you will participate in five two-hour sessions to support collaboration and implementation of the OG lesson structure.

## Session 1 Available Dates:

March 16, March 17, March 18, March 19

All sessions are 4pm - 6pm



2-hour OG training for LAUSD: Teachers will connect to current practice and sources, set framework for case study.

## Session 2 Available Dates:

April 6, April 7, April 8, April 9

All sessions are 4pm-6pm



2-hour District context check-in: reflect on learning, identify students for case study, deeper dive into phonological awareness and its

## Session 3 Available Dates:

April 20, April 21, April 22, April 23

All sessions are 4pm - 6pm



2-hour District context check-in: LAUSD core and supplemental resources that support the OG lesson plan structure.

## Session 4 Available Dates:

May 4, May 5, May 6, May 7

All sessions are 4pm - 6pm



2-hour District context check-in: Review profiles & assessment results of case study student, plan OG lesson plan.

## Session 5 Available Dates:

May 18, May 19, May 20, May 21

All sessions are 4pm - 6pm



2-hour District context check-in: LAUSD core and supplemental resources that support writing & the OG Classroom, reflection of progress of case study

For more information contact:

Elementary teachers: Jakell Bell ([jnb1898@lausd.net](mailto:jnb1898@lausd.net)), Coordinator, or Susan Spillane ([sspillan@lausd.net](mailto:sspillan@lausd.net)), Specialist

Secondary teachers: Dharma Hernandez ([dth3022@lausd.net](mailto:dth3022@lausd.net)), Coordinator, or Rachel Petruzzi ([rap3913@lausd.net](mailto:rap3913@lausd.net)), Coordinator

Special Education teachers: Mary Ann Sullivan ([maryann.sullivan@lausd.net](mailto:maryann.sullivan@lausd.net)), Coordinator or Veronica Mullen ([veronica.mullen@lausd.net](mailto:veronica.mullen@lausd.net)), Specialist

