

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

TO: Secondary School Principals **DATE:** February 8, 2021
FROM: Pedro Garcia 
Senior Executive Director, Division of Instruction
Dr. Maribel Luna 
Senior Director, Division of Special Education
SUBJECT: 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 three teachers at each secondary 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 *Promise* is the commitment to ensure that every student is college and career ready.

OPPORTUNITY:

This professional development is essential in providing support to our students with characteristics of Dyslexia as well as students reading below benchmark due to decoding issues. The 30-hour professional development is asynchronous learning with optional office hours to support implementation. All participants will receive access to a 30-hour On-Demand Orton-Gillingham Educator Course and will be expected to complete the first 15 hours before the end of the school year. Optional office hours will be provided to support planning, implementation, and reflection. To learn more about this opportunity, please visit this [website](#) and watch the overview video *Why Orton-Gillingham Should be in Every Classroom*.

Teachers will attend the PD during their non-contractual time and will be compensated at training rate. Teachers may also opt for a salary point, if they attend an additional 10 hours of synchronous PD. Teachers will complete half the course between March-May 2021 (15 hours

asynchronous). The second half of the course (15 hours asynchronous) will be completed in Fall 2021.

Selected teachers will be emailed directly information on how to enroll on MyPLN and access the asynchronous 30-hour course.

SCHOOL TEAM/ATTENDEES:

To promote success in implementation, collaboration, and sustainability, three teachers at each school site are eligible 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 General Education English teacher, and either a second General Education English teacher or out-of-classroom teacher supporting English.

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 dedication and continued commitment to support our students.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

For additional information or questions, please contact Mary Ann Sullivan, Coordinator of TK-12 Instruction, Division of Special Education, at maryann.sullivan@lausd.net, or Dharma Hernandez, Secondary Literacy Coordinator, at dth3022@lausd.net, or Rachel Petruzzi, Middle School Literacy Coordinator, at rap3913@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), Coordinator, or Susan Spillane (sspillan@lausd.net), Specialist

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

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

