



K-12 English Language Arts Professional Learning Opportunities Guide 2026-2027

Welcome to Metro RESA K-12 English Language Arts

Welcome to Metro RESA's K-12 English Language Arts professional learning opportunities guide for the 2026-2027 school year. The English Language Arts Professional Learning Specialists and the professional learning department plan, coordinate, and deliver all courses, workshops, endorsements, and training events for Metropolitan Regional Educational Service Agency (Metro RESA). Metro RESA offers regularly scheduled courses/events, on-site professional learning options, and custom-designed professional learning to meet individual school and system needs by request. Custom-designed professional learning opportunities are conducted based on system and school requests, meeting the unique goals and needs of the individual school system and/or schools. Metro RESA is committed to building the capacity of all educators in the metro area through courses, workshops, collaborative consortia, and other activities. In addition to these opportunities, Metro RESA offers the **P-12 Reading Endorsement**, along with thirteen other endorsement options. More information about the programs and services offered at Metro RESA can be found at www.mresa.org.

Overview of Metro RESA K-12 ELA Professional Learning Specialist Service Offerings

- Staff learning for administrators, instructional coaches, teachers, paraprofessionals, and substitute teachers
 - Collaborative consortia for district-level English Language Arts leaders through job-alike meetings
 - Resource and informational updates through communication platforms and website resource pages
 - Consultative assistance in various areas of English Language Arts curriculum and instruction by request
 - On-site professional learning (Email kelly.york@mresa.org or erika.tucker@mresa.org for more information and to schedule)
 - Custom-designed professional learning to meet school or district-based needs
- OR**
- Select from the 2026-2027 menu of K-12 English Language Arts on-site professional learning options (p. 3)

Metro RESA K-12 English Language Arts Specialists



Kelley York currently serves as an ELA Professional Learning Specialist and P-12 Reading Endorsement Coordinator with the Metropolitan Regional Educational Service Agency (Metro RESA). Kelley has impacted change with colleagues in the educational profession by implementing research-based practices, supervising and instructing Reading Endorsement cohorts, and facilitating literacy professional learning across 12 metro-area school districts, more than 50 state charter schools, and the Department of Juvenile Justice—collectively serving 43% of the state of Georgia.

Kelley was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia, and is a proud product of the Atlanta Public School System. Kelley received a Bachelor of Science degree from Howard University, a Master of Education degree from Mercer University, and an Educational Specialist degree in Curriculum, Instruction, and Leadership from the University of West Georgia. Before joining the Metro RESA Team in 2011, Kelley served as an ELA District-level Instructional Coach in Fulton County Schools. She has presented at several regional, state, and national conferences, supporting educators with curriculum design, instructional practices, and pedagogy. With 29 years in education, Kelley has traveled across the state as an educational ambassador, supporting both educators and students. Contact Kelley York at kelly.york@mresa.org.



Dr. Erika Tucker currently serves as an ELA Professional Learning Specialist and P-12 Reading Endorsement Coordinator with the Metropolitan Regional Educational Service Agency (Metro RESA). Her responsibilities include facilitating literacy professional development for schools and districts, implementing evidence-based practices, and supervising several Reading Endorsement cohorts across the Metro RESA region.

Dr. Tucker has worked in public education for 26 years. Prior to joining Metro RESA, she held several positions in public education, including ELA teacher, Title I instructional coach, assistant principal, and district curriculum coordinator. She received her BA and MAT from Agnes Scott College. She holds a Leadership Certificate from the University of West Georgia and a Ph.D. in Language and Literacy Education from the University of Georgia. Her educational research interests include disciplinary literacy, culturally relevant pedagogy, and assessment practices. Dr. Tucker is the co-author of the chapter “Family-School Partnerships” in *Research to Guide Practice in Middle Grades Education*. Contact Dr. Erika Tucker at erika.tucker@mresa.org.

Metro RESA K-12 English Language Arts Menu of On-Site Professional Learning Options

On-site professional learning is available upon request. Professional learning options for K-12 English Language Arts are listed in the menu below but are not limited to these offerings. *Specialists are able to conduct on-site professional learning that is customized to meet district or school building needs.*

Email Kelley York and Dr. Erika Tucker, K-12 English Language Arts Specialists, at kelley.york@mresa.org or erika.tucker@mresa.org to learn more.

- Georgia's K-12 English Language Arts Standards
 - Diving Deeper Series 1.0: Deepening Understanding of the Standards
 - Diving Deeper Series 2.0: Moving from Theory to Practice
 - Diving Deeper Series 3.0: Beyond the Classroom and Planning for Standards Implementation
- Evidence-based Approaches for Literacy Instruction and Practices
- Small Group Instruction for Literacy Intervention and Enrichment
- Writing Instruction
- Academic Moves and Strategies for Literacy
- Disciplinary Literacy Support
- Visual Literacy Support
- Learning through Writing Across the Content Areas
- Vocabulary Strategies that Build Transfer

English Language Arts District Leader Job-Alike Consortium

The Metro RESA ELA Job-Alike Consortium is a collaborative meeting designed to bring together district personnel working in English Language Arts leadership positions across Metro Atlanta school districts. Facilitated by Metro RESA’s ELA Professional Learning Specialists, this collective group meets to enhance their craft, share knowledge, and build opportunities for educators. The networking sessions combine resources, information sharing, discussion, and action planning around relevant K-12 literacy topics.

Meetings consist of state guidance, professional development, networking, sharing of professional learning services, and engaging with vendors whose products are of interest to the group to meet the needs of K-12 English Language Arts educators. Group participants have opportunities prior to each meeting to provide input on agenda topics. The meetings are held four times a year.

Audience: District-Level English Language Arts Leaders

Meeting	Date	Time	Location
Quarter 1 Job-Alike	September 17, 2026	9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Metro RESA
Quarter 2 Job-Alike	December 4, 2026	10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Virtual
Quarter 3 Job-Alike	February 26, 2027	10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Virtual
Quarter 4 Job-Alike	June 3, 2027	10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Virtual

K-12 English Language Arts Professional Learning Opportunities 2026-2027

While Metro RESA collaborates with school district personnel to meet professional learning needs within districts, we also offer in-house training through our agency for educators across districts. These courses are especially helpful for districts with only a few schools requesting specific content, those without sufficient staff to conduct full in-district training, or schools unable to attend district offerings due to scheduling conflicts. We also welcome individual participants seeking to build their knowledge, as well as school teams working to build capacity in a specific area.

To register for any of the workshops, visit the website at www.mresa.org under courses and events.

Registration typically closes two weeks before the workshop, and those registered will receive event details at least 48 hours before the event.

Professional Learning Event	Grade Band Focus	Date	Time	Fee	Location
Understanding the Science of Reading	6-12 Educators	September 29, 2026	9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	\$99	Metro RESA Conference Room
Adolescent Literacy	4-12 Educators	November 11, 2026 OR February 10, 2027	9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	\$99	Metro RESA Conference Room
Talk, Read, Write, Solve: Literacy in Mathematics	K-5 Educators	December 3, 2026	8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.	\$99	Metro RESA Auditorium

English Language Arts Series: Diving Deeper Into Content

Join us for an engaging Professional Learning (PL) series designed to help elementary and secondary educators transfer their knowledge of Georgia's K-12 ELA Standards into practical applications for effective, evidence-based literacy instruction. Participants can register for one or more of the following sessions:

1. Express Readers Session on Decodables and Structural Analysis (more advanced phonics instruction for complex texts) with Elise Lovejoy:

This professional learning session, facilitated by Express Readers, supports K–5 educators in strengthening foundational literacy instruction through the intentional use of decodable texts and structural analysis. Participants will explore how explicit, systematic instruction in phonics and word structure helps students develop accurate decoding skills, deepen word recognition, and support reading fluency and comprehension. Participants will examine how texts can be used purposefully to align with phonics instruction and provide students with meaningful opportunities to apply newly learned skills in connected text.

2. Writing to Learn: Connecting Reading, Writing, and Content:

This professional learning session supports K–5 educators in using writing as a powerful tool to deepen students’ understanding of reading and content-area learning. Participants will explore how developmentally appropriate writing experiences help young learners process information, make meaning from texts, and express their thinking across subjects. This training will help educators examine practical strategies for integrating short, purposeful writing tasks into literacy instruction and content areas such as science and social studies.

3. Writing across the Disciplines-Argument, Analysis, & Evidence:

This professional learning session supports 6-12 educators in strengthening student writing through a shared focus on argument, analysis, and evidence across disciplines. Participants will explore how writing functions as a tool for thinking, learning, and communicating ideas. Participants will examine developmentally appropriate strategies for teaching students to make claims, analyze texts, and support ideas with relevant evidence.

4. Interpreting & Constructing Texts: Building Proficient Readers and Writers:

This professional learning session focuses on strengthening literacy development by teaching students how to interpret and construct texts across grade levels and content areas. Participants will explore how reading and writing function as reciprocal processes and how explicit instruction in comprehension, analysis, and composition supports students in becoming more proficient, independent readers and writers. Educators will examine developmentally appropriate strategies that help students make meaning from texts for a variety of audiences and purposes.

5. Intentional Vocabulary Instruction for all Learners:

This professional learning session focuses on building strong practices for language and literacy through intentional vocabulary instruction. Participants will learn how explicit, systematic vocabulary teaching supports the development and use of academic language, comprehension, and writing skills across all content areas.

Diving Deeper: Express Readers Session on Decodables and Structural Analysis (more advanced phonics instruction for complex texts) with Elise Lovejoy Fee TBD/Workshop			
Grade Band Focus	Date	Time	Location
K-5 Educators	September 15, 2026	9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Metro RESA Auditorium

Diving Deeper: Writing to Learn – Connecting Reading, Writing, and Content
\$99 Fee/Workshop

Grade Band Focus	Date	Time	Location
K-5 Educators	October 13, 2026 OR February 2, 2027 (Repeat)	9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Metro RESA Auditorium

Diving Deeper: Writing Across the Disciplines – Argument, Analysis, and Evidence
\$99 Fee/Workshop

Grade Band Focus	Date	Time	Location
6-12 Educators	October 20, 2026 OR February 4, 2027 (Repeat)	9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Metro RESA Conference Room

Diving Deeper: Interpreting and Constructing Texts – Building Proficient Readers and Writers
\$99 Fee/Workshop

Grade Band Focus	Date	Time	Location
K-5 Educators	November 10, 2026 OR March 9, 2027 (Repeat)	9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Metro RESA Auditorium
6-12 Educators	November 17, 2026 OR March 11, 2027 (Repeat)	9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Metro RESA Conference Room

Diving Deeper: Intentional Vocabulary Instruction for All Learners
\$99 Fee/Workshop

Grade Band Focus	Date	Time	Location
K-5 Educators	March 17, 2027	9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Metro RESA Auditorium
6-12 Educators	March 18, 2027	9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Metro RESA Conference Room

Georgia Department of Education ELA Professional Learning Opportunities Hosted by Metro RESA

In partnership with Metro RESA, the GaDOE ELA Team will facilitate sessions that provide guidance and support to educators as they continue implementing Georgia's K-12 English Language Arts Standards. Please see the course catalog for more information and to register. These sessions are offered at no cost.

1. Designing for Coherence: Cross-Domain Standards Planning in Action

High-quality ELA instruction depends not only on addressing individual standards but on designing learning experiences where standards across domains work together in service of a clear instructional focus. In this collaborative workshop, participants will explore how to plan coherent instruction by blending the Texts (T), Practices (P), Foundations (F)(K-5), and Language (L) domains into integrated lesson and/or unit designs in a way that strengthens both interpreting and constructing skills. Grounded in Georgia's K-12 ELA Standards and the ELA Instructional Framework, this session will highlight planning routines that help educators move beyond isolated coverage toward purposeful alignment—connecting reading, writing, speaking/listening, and language development through shared purpose, audience, and technique. This session is designed as an active working space. Participants should bring local curriculum materials, planning templates, units/lessons, and/or writing tasks. Through guided collaboration, educators will leave with cross-domain planning structures and next-step tools they can apply immediately to strengthen coherence and impact in daily instruction.

2. Designing ELA Instruction that Works for English Learners

Supporting English learners in accessing grade-level ELA content requires intentional planning that integrates both content and language goals. This professional learning session will focus on using Georgia's K-12 ELA Standards alongside WIDA's English Language Development Standards Framework, 2020 Edition, to design instruction that is both rigorous and accessible. Participants will explore how to identify language demands and opportunities embedded within ELA tasks, plan supports that preserve rigor, and design learning experiences that enable English learners to engage meaningfully with complex texts and develop language skills in context.

3. Text Domain in Action for K-12 ELA Special Education Teachers

This professional development session will focus on the Texts domain, providing educators with effective strategies to enhance literacy instruction for students with diverse needs. The session will include interactive discussions, hands-on activities, and collaborative planning time. Participants will build a clear understanding of the key components of the Text Domain, including its big ideas and associated standards, and examine how this domain integrates with the Foundations, Language, and Practices domains to create coherent ELA instruction. They will also explore evidence-based strategies that strengthen literacy teaching across contexts and develop practical, high-impact approaches tailored to effectively support students in special education.

4. The Power of Peer Revision: Instructional Routines that Elevate Student Performance

Effective writing instruction depends not only on what students draft, but on how they revise, reflect, and strengthen their work through purposeful feedback. In this session, participants will explore how structured peer revision routines can serve as powerful levers for improving writing quality, student agency, and performance across grade levels and writing purposes. Grounded in Georgia's K-12 ELA Standards and the ELA Instructional Framework, this session highlights practical mini-lesson routines that translate assessment-

style revision questions into meaningful classroom instruction. Using the GaDOE Peer Revision Mini Lesson Template, educators will examine how to move students through a scaffolded progression of noticing → evaluating → revising, ensuring that peer feedback leads to immediate, actionable improvements in student writing across the three Milestones writing traits: Purpose & Organization, Evidence & Elaboration, and Language Usage & Conventions. Through models, tools, and collaborative discussion, participants will leave with instructional strategies they can implement immediately to strengthen revision practices and elevate student writing well beyond the assessment setting.

Professional Learning Event	Grade Band Focus	Date	Time	Location
Designing for Coherence: Cross-Domain Standards Planning in Action (Collaborative Workshop)	K-5 Educators	September 22, 2026	9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	TBD
Designing for Coherence: Cross-Domain Standards Planning in Action (Collaborative Workshop)	6-12 Educators	September 23, 2026	9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Metro RESA Conference Room
Designing for Coherence: Cross-Domain Standards Planning in Action (Collaborative Workshop)	K-5 Educators	December 8, 2026	9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Metro RESA Auditorium
Designing for Coherence: Cross-Domain Standards Planning in Action (Collaborative Workshop)	6-12 Educators	December 9, 2026	9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Metro RESA Conference Room
Designing ELA Instruction that Works for English Learners	K-12 Educators	January 12, 2027	9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Metro RESA Auditorium
Text Domain in Action for K-12 ELA Special Education Teachers	K-12 Educators	January 14, 2027	9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Virtual
The Power of Peer Revision: Instructional Routines that Elevate Student Performance	K-5 Educators	February 23, 2027	9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Metro RESA Auditorium
The Power of Peer Revision: Instructional Routines that Elevate Student Performance	6-12 Educators	February 25, 2027	9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Metro RESA Conference Room

Designing for Coherence: Cross-Domain Standards Planning in Action (Collaborative Workshop: Planning for the 2027- 2028 School Year)	K-5 Educators	May 27, 2027	9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Metro RESA Auditorium
Designing for Coherence: Cross-Domain Standards Planning in Action (Collaborative Workshop: Planning for the 2027- 2028 School Year)	6-12 Educators	May 28, 2027	9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Metro RESA Auditorium

Questions? Please contact Kelley York at kelley.york@mresa.org or Dr. Erika Tucker at erika.tucker@mresa.org.