

NEWSLETTER

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING



October 2023

Highlights

Science of Reading Awards

The Office of Early Learning is excited to announce Science of Reading Awards that recognize NC leaders and educators who exemplify leadership, innovation, and systems alignment in implementation of early literacy best practices.

In October we recognized:

Wilkes County Schools - Innovative Inspiration Award - Wilkes County is recognized for leading in unique and innovative ways to shift the system culture to support Science of Reading implementation and sustainability

Moore County Schools - Pinehurst Elementary Principal, Ashley Ciccone - True Trailblazer Award - This award recognized school level leadership in guiding a system through a shift to the Science of Reading



Wilkes County Schools is recognized by the OEL at the board meeting on October 2, 2023.

Updates to Share

1. 106 of the 115 Early Literacy Specialists (ELS) have been hired. Take a look at our updated ELS hires map. This interactive map enables you to click on each district and see the name and picture of each of our ELS hires.

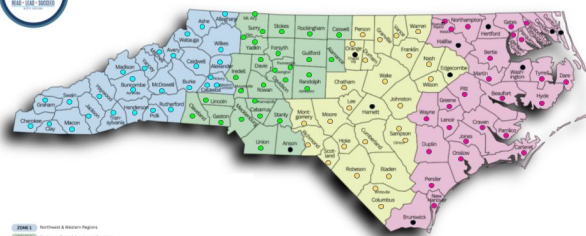
2. [Perspective: A beacon of hope for literacy in North Carolina](#)

[Perspective: Union County Public Schools empowers educators, elevates readers](#)

[Perspective: Two years into improving reading outcomes for North Carolina Students](#)



NC Early Literacy Specialists



Legend:
Northwest & Western Regions
Piedmont Triad & Southwestern Regions
Central & South Central Regions
Southeastern & Southern Regions

Click the dots to view each Early Literacy Specialist's name and photo by district.

Click to open an interactive map and view each of our 106 hired ELS.

From the Field

Year Two Reflections

Transforming Early Literacy in NC

Teachers from Lee County and Wake County share their success with the science of reading.

A parent and teacher from Carteret County share their experience with the science of reading.

Year Two Reflections

Transforming Early Literacy in NC

State Board Update

2023 Approved RtA Alternative Assessment

On October 5, 2023, the State Board of Education approved Renaissance STAR Reading as the 23-24 Read to Achieve Alternative Assessment. This assessment serves as an alternative pathway for third grade students as a good cause exemption reading proficiency measure. The alternative assessment does not replace the state required assessments and is optional for districts to purchase.

As we begin collaborating with the vendor and planning implementation, we will keep you posted on the next steps.

Vendor Name: Renaissance

Assessment Name: STAR Reading

Website: [Star Reading | Renaissance](#)