

Early And Middle Childhood/Literacy: Reading—Language Arts (LRLA) Standards Committee Biographies

Steven Benjamin, NBCT

Steven Benjamin is a National Board Certified Teacher in Literacy: Reading-Language Arts. He serves as a middle school reading specialist at Boston Public Schools, Massachusetts.

Career Highlights:

- Nominated to American Federation of Teachers (AFT) national-level Teacher Leadership Alumni Research Institute
- Certified by the Lesley University Institute for Trauma and Learning
- Presented Secondary Reading Intervention Curriculum: "REWARDS" (Boston Public Schools Telescope Network, Jan 2024); "Routines for Secondary Reading Instruction" (Boston Public Schools Telescope Network, Jan 2022)
- Certified in English as a Second Language, Grades 5-12
- Certified in Moderate Disabilities, Grades 5-12

Miladys Cepero-Perez, NBCT

Miladys Cepero-Perez is a National Board Certified Teacher in Middle Childhood Generalist. She serves as the Learning Forward Florida (LFF) Director with Miami Dade County Public Schools, Florida.

Career Highlights:

- Ph.D in Educational Leadership and Research Methodology
- Endorsements/ Certifications in English as a Second Language, Gifted K-12, Reading Endorsement K-12 and School Administration
- Serves as an adjunct professor with Miami Dade College School of Education
- Served as Instructional Supervisor, Teacher Leadership and Development
- Presented at Miami Dade College's AI Symposium, "The Science of Reading and AI as a Tool to Support High-Quality Reading Instruction"
- Presented at the Florida Literacy Association, "Evidence-based Reading Practices and Structured Literacy Implementation"

Yi Cha, NBCT

Yi Cha is a National Board Certified Teacher in Literacy: Reading-Language Arts. She serves as an instructional coach at Vang Pao Elementary in the Fresno Unified School District, California.

Career Highlights:

- Serves on the English Language Arts Advisory Team
- Mentor Teacher for Teacher Residency Program
- Dual Language Immersion Endorsement
- Bilingual, Crosscultural, Language and Academic Development (BCLAD) Credential

Hayden Dry, NBCT

Hayden Dry is a National Board Certified Teacher in Literacy: Reading-Language Arts. She teaches kindergarten at the Detroit Academy of Arts and Sciences in Michigan.

Career Highlights:

- Lead pilot teacher for the team teaching model for kindergarten at her elementary school
- Served as the literacy lead coach for kindergarten through second grade, 2021-2022
- Recognized as 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year, Normandy Early Learning Center
- Recipient of the Aspiring Leaders Fellowship, 2020-2021

Rachel Goggins, NBCT

Rachel Goggins is a National Board Certified Teacher in Literacy: Reading-Language Arts. She serves as a National Board Support Coach with Tuscaloosa City Schools, Alabama.

Career Highlights:

- Vice President of the Alabama NBCT Network
- Online Summer Learning Director
- Lead Educator Ambassador
- Additional certifications in Early Childhood, Instructional Leadership, and Special Education
- University of Alabama's College of Education Top Alumni Under 40, 2025

Jason, Herman, NBCT

Jason Herman is a National Board Certified Teacher in Literacy: Reading-Language Arts. He teaches fifth grade at Montgomery County Public Schools, Maryland.

Career Highlights:

- Grade Level Department Chair
- Teacher Mentor and School Improvement Team Member
- Middle School Cross Country Coach
- Lead Educator Ambassador
- E-Book and Literacy Projects Leader
- After-School Basketball Program Founder

Rhonda Jackson, NBCT

Rhonda Jackson is a National Board Certified Teacher in Literacy: Reading-Language Arts. She teaches self-contained kindergarten at Woodridge 68 John L. Siple School in Illinois.

Career Highlights:

- 2016 Woodridge Teacher of the Year
- Mentor Teacher to New Teachers
- School Leadership Team Leader
- Design and facilitate professional development for districtwide leaders

Katie Pippins, NBCT

Katie Pippins is a National Board Certified Teacher in Literacy: Reading-Language Arts. She teaches second grade at Soap Lake School District, Washington State.

Career Highlights:

- Selected Best Mentor for New Teachers
- Developed curriculum for financial literacy for the Washington State Department of Education
- Additional endorsements in Reading and English as a Second Language
- Lead Literacy Data Analyst for her elementary school

Noraa Ransey, NBCT

Noraa Ransey is a National Board Certified Teacher in Literacy: Reading-Language Arts. She teaches first grade at North Calloway Elementary in Calloway County Schools, Kentucky.

Career Highlights:

- National Education Association Board of Directors
- Kentucky Reading Association Diversity Committee
- Network of Accomplished Minoritized Educators (NAME) and National Board Mentor
- Provides literacy and technology training through the Kentucky Academy of Technology Education
- Member of the Advisory Board for MA Education Reading/Writing, Murray State University

Sheila Weathers, NBCT

Sheila Weathers is a National Board Certified Teacher in Literacy: Reading-Language Arts. She teaches 5th grade with the Houston Independent School District (ISD), Texas.

Career Highlights:

- Rising Leader with the Texas Council of Teachers for English Language Arts
- Nevada National Board Professional Learning Network Candidate Support Planning Committee
- Nevada National Board Professional Learning Network Reading & Writing Retreat Committee
- School leadership committee with Grandview Hills Elementary (local) /academics; Superintendent Teacher's Advisory Cabinet (State of Nevada); Teach Plus Fellow
- National Teach Plus Nevada Legislative Advocacy Committee; National Teach Plus TOC (Teachers of Color) Alumni Network Advisory Committee-National
- State Curriculum Reviewer (Texas)

Kelsey Sidney Williams, NBCT

Kelsey Sidney Williams is a National Board Certified Teacher in Literacy: Reading-Language Arts. She teaches third grade at Guilford County Schools District, North Carolina.

Career Highlights:

- 2021 Extraordinary Educator: City of High Point
- Infinite Campus Liaison to School Staff
- Recognized in Top 25% of Third Grade Teachers for English Language Growth (January 2026)
- Served as Spartan Club Executive Board Member
- Served as Varsity Volleyball Coach

Bogum Yoon

Bogum Yoon is a college professor in the Department of Teaching, Learning, and Educational Leadership at State University of New York (SUNY) at Binghamton. Her research and expertise include culturally and linguistically sustaining pedagogy and teacher preparation for culturally and linguistically diverse students.

Career Highlights:

- Speaker for Seminar on Critical Global Literacies, National Institute of Education (NIE)
- Nanyang Technological University, invited, Singapore, 2025
- Service Award as a member of the Literacy Research Association Board of Directors, 2025
Board Director, Literacy Research Association, elected, 2022-2025
- Service Award as Standing Committee Chair, Ethnicity, Race, and Multilingualism, Literacy
- Speaker for Seminar on Critical Global Literacies, invited, Koç University, Turkey, 2018