



Keys to Adolescent Literacy Professional Learning Series

On-site or virtual professional learning designed specifically for grades 4-12 educators seeking practical, evidence-based strategies that make a meaningful difference in student literacy achievement.

Unlock student potential in grades 4-12 with effective, research-based literacy practices. Keys to Adolescent Literacy equips educators with proven strategies for teaching vocabulary, comprehension, text structure, writing, discussion, word study, and fluency across all content areas.

This practical professional learning helps teachers deepen their understanding of adolescent literacy while providing them with immediately applicable strategies. Educators learn to seamlessly integrate literacy instruction into their existing curriculum, support striving readers, and use assessment data to design responsive interventions that accelerate student growth.

Whether students are tackling complex texts, solving challenging problems, conducting investigations, or expressing ideas through writing, this training provides educators with the tools to help all adolescent learners develop the reading, writing, speaking, listening, and critical thinking skills they need to succeed across all content areas.

Grounded in more than 20 years of experience and the latest research on effective adolescent literacy instruction, *Keys to Adolescent Literacy* provides powerful professional learning designed to enhance student literacy achievement.

Provide your grades 4-12 educators with professional learning delivered by a Keys to Literacy consultant—virtually or onsite—incorporating Joan Sedita's *The Essentials of Adolescent Literacy* book.

The *Keys to Adolescent Literacy* series includes nine three-hour sessions (see details below). Schools may implement the complete course or customize the experience by selecting sessions that align with their instructional priorities and teacher needs.

- Session A: *Essentials of Adolescent Literacy*
- Session B: *Building Vocabulary Across All Disciplines*
- Session C: *Unlocking Meaning: Effective Comprehension Instruction*
- Session D: *Teaching Text Structure to Support Reading and Writing*
- Session E: *Essentials of Effective Writing Instruction*
- Session F: *Enhancing Learning Through Discussion*
- Session G: *Advanced Word Study and Fluency*
- Session H: *Supporting Adolescents With Literacy Difficulties*
- Session I: *Data-Driven Approach to Reading Intervention*

Who should participate? This course is appropriate for classroom teachers in grades 4-12, special education and intervention educators, literacy coaches, and administrators—ensuring consistent literacy instruction across your district.

Keys to Literacy will partner with you to develop a customized professional learning plan, providing training for some or all live sessions on a schedule that meets your district's needs. We highly recommend job-embedded



coaching to support successful implementation and promote sustained growth among teachers and leaders. Contact us to learn more.

Live Session Outline

Session A: Essentials of Adolescent Literacy

Quick Promo: Provide grades 4-12 educators with foundational literacy knowledge and adolescent literacy insights to support reading, writing, and engagement across all content areas.

Description: Participants explore the frameworks that underpin research-based literacy instruction and address the unique needs of adolescent learners. They learn how to use explicit, structured instruction to teach and integrate reading and writing skills across all subject areas, while recognizing the distinct literacy demands of each discipline. This session provides the foundation for the remaining Keys to Adolescent Literacy sessions and serves as an ideal starting point for schools or districts beginning their work in adolescent literacy instruction.

Session Topics Include: *The Science of Reading and Writing, Principles of Effective Teaching, Integrating Reading and Writing Instruction, Content and Disciplinary Literacy, and Fostering Motivation and Engagement.*

Connecting This Session to Keys to Literacy’s Comprehensive Professional Learning Suite: This foundational session can stand alone, but it is also recommended as the starting point for other Keys to Adolescent Literacy sessions. It can also set the stage for deeper adolescent professional development through the use of *The Key Vocabulary Routine, The Key Comprehension Routine, or Keys to Content Writing.*

Session B: Building Vocabulary Across All Disciplines

Quick Promo: Help grades 4-12 educators build students’ academic vocabulary using practical, research-based strategies across all content areas.

Description: This interactive session provides research-based recommendations for effective vocabulary instruction that supports both reading comprehension and writing. Participants explore why vocabulary instruction is essential for adolescent learners and learn how to integrate direct and indirect teaching methods to develop both the breadth and depth of word knowledge. The session features practical, easy-to-implement strategies with an emphasis on selecting, previewing, and teaching academic words in meaningful contexts.

Session Topics Include: *Academic Vocabulary Defined, Hallmarks of Effective and Research-Based Vocabulary Instruction, Previewing Strategies, Selecting and Teaching Words for In-Depth Instruction, Using Word-Learning Templates, Making Connections Among Words*

Connecting This Session to Keys to Literacy’s Comprehensive Professional Learning Suite: This session serves as an excellent stand-alone introduction to vocabulary instruction. It complements and pairs well with Session C, “Unlocking Meaning: Effective Comprehension Instruction.” It can also serve as a launching point for more extensive professional learning focused on teaching vocabulary for schools or districts exploring *The Key Vocabulary Routine* professional development.

Session C: Unlocking Meaning: Effective Comprehension Instruction

Quick Promo: Provide grades 4-12 educators with practical instructional practices for improving students' comprehension across all content areas.

Description: Participants explore why students often struggle with complex texts and learn effective strategies for teaching close reading and comprehension monitoring. This interactive session offers research-based approaches to close reading. Practical suggestions are provided for teaching before-, during-, and after-reading comprehension strategies across all subjects, including the use of graphic organizers, summarizing, and generating questions.

Session Topics Include: Factors Affecting Comprehension, Access to High-quality Grade-level Text, Close Reading, Metacognition and Comprehension Monitoring, Comprehension Strategies

Connecting This Session to Keys to Literacy's Comprehensive Professional Learning Suite: This session serves as an excellent stand-alone introduction to comprehension instruction. It complements and pairs well with Session B "Building Vocabulary Across All Disciplines," or Session D "Teaching Text Structure to Support Reading and Writing." It can also serve as a launching point for more extensive professional learning focused on teaching comprehension for schools or districts exploring The Key Comprehension Routine professional development.

Session D: Teaching Text Structure to Support Reading and Writing

Quick Promo: Support grades 4-12 students' reading comprehension and writing skills with practical strategies that help them recognize and use text structures effectively.

Description: This session helps teachers of grades 4–12 strengthen students' reading comprehension and writing skills across all subject areas by making text structures visible in a variety of texts. Participants learn practical strategies for teaching students to recognize text structures while reading and consider text structures when writing. The session addresses multiple levels of text organization, including structures for narrative, informational, and argumentative texts; patterns of organization and corresponding transitions; and paragraph and sentence structures.

Session Topics Include: Understanding Text Structure in Reading and Writing, Text Types, Patterns of Organization, Transitions, Paragraph and Sentence Structure

Connecting This Session to Keys to Literacy's Comprehensive Professional Learning Suite: This session can stand alone as an overview text structure. It complements and pairs well with Session C "Unlocking Meaning: Effective Comprehension Instruction" and Session E "Essentials of Effective Writing Instruction."

Session E: Essentials of Effective Writing Instruction

Quick Promo: Provide grades 4-12 educators with practical instructional practices for improving students' writing across all content areas.

Description: This session for teachers in grades 4-12 explores the multiple skills and strategies students need to become proficient writers. It also presents effective teaching principles for teaching writing across all subject areas. Practical suggestions are provided for planning and assigning various types of content-area writing tasks.



The session highlights the stages of the writing process (think, plan, write, and revise) and offers instructional recommendations and scaffolds to support students at each stage.

Session Topics Include: *Components of Writing Instruction, Effective Writing Teaching Principles, Using Texts as Models for Writing, Stages of the Writing Process, Writing Strategies and Scaffolds, Writing Assignment Planning Guide*

Connecting This Session to Keys to Literacy’s Comprehensive Professional Learning Suite: *This session serves as an excellent stand-alone introduction to writing instruction. It complements and pairs well with Session D, “Teaching Text Structure to Support Reading and Writing.” It can also serve as a launching point for more extensive professional learning focused on teaching writing for schools or districts exploring Keys to Content Writing professional development.*

Session F: Enhancing Learning Through Discussion

Quick Promo: *Help grades 4-12 students develop skills needed to effectively participate in discussions that develop communication, comprehension, and critical thinking skills.*

Description: *This session helps educators of grades 4–12 transform classrooms in any subject area into dynamic learning environments where meaningful discussions promote deeper understanding and critical thinking. Participants learn how to shift students from passive learners to active thinkers who can articulate complex ideas drawn from texts and classroom instruction. The session offers research-based strategies for planning and facilitating discussions, including selecting appropriate formats and implementing multiple engaging discussion activities.*

Session Topics Include: *Strategies for Planning Effective Discussions, Facilitating Effective Discussions, Fostering Academic Productive Talk, and Engaging Students in Rich Discussion Activities such as Socratic Seminars.*

Connecting This Session to Keys to Literacy’s Comprehensive Professional Learning Suite: *The session can stand alone as an overview of discussion skills. It complements and pairs well with Session C “Unlocking Meaning: Effective Comprehension Instruction.”*

Session G: Advanced Word Study and Fluency

Quick Promo: *Help students in grades 4-12 develop the skills needed to decode and spell unfamiliar multisyllabic words across all subjects, becoming fluent readers.*

Description: *This session provides grades 4–12 educators with a foundational understanding of how phonics, advanced word study, and fluency contribute to efficient reading comprehension. It also examines why some older students struggle with reading and spelling due to a lack of proficiency in these essential skills. Subject-area teachers learn a consistent, cross-disciplinary word analysis routine that helps students read, spell, and determine the meanings of unfamiliar multisyllabic words across all subjects. The session also addresses the differing needs of fluent and dysfluent readers.*

Session Topics Include: *Phonics and Advanced Word Study Across Grades 4-12, Overview of Fluency, Strategies for Reading and Spelling Multisyllabic Words, A Word-Analysis Routine, Teaching Morphemes*



Connecting This Session to Keys to Literacy’s Comprehensive Professional Learning Suite: *This session can stand alone as an overview of advanced word study and fluency. It complements and pairs well with Session H “Supporting Adolescents with Literacy Difficulties.”*

Session H: Supporting Adolescents With Literacy Difficulties

Quick Promo: *Discover research-based strategies to identify and support struggling adolescent readers and writers and provide effective intervention instruction.*

Description: *This session is especially valuable for intervention educators and literacy leaders working with students in grades 4–12 who struggle with reading and writing. Content-area teachers who have a significant number of students with literacy challenges may also find the session highly relevant. Participants explore the underlying reasons some students experience literacy difficulties and gain a deeper understanding of how dyslexia and executive function deficits contribute to these challenges, as well as the additional hurdles faced by many older English learners. The session includes a review of research-based intervention practices and offers practical strategies for improving vocabulary, comprehension, decoding, fluency, and writing skills.*

Session Topics Include: *Overview of Adolescent Reading and Writing Difficulties, Causes of Literacy Difficulty, Supporting Struggling Learners in General Education, Effective Interventions Instruction for Vocabulary, Comprehension, Decoding, Fluency, and Writing, Dyslexia, Executive Functions, and English Learner Challenges*

Connecting This Session to Keys to Literacy’s Comprehensive Professional Learning Suite: *This session can stand alone as an introduction to intervention for students with reading and writing difficulties. It complements and pairs well with Session G “Advanced Word Study and Fluency”, and Session I “A Data-Driven Approach to Reading Intervention.”*

Session I: Data-Driven Approach to Reading Intervention

Quick Promo: *This session provides an overview of literacy assessments and demonstrates how assessment data can inform instructional decisions to support student learning.*

Description: *This session is particularly valuable for intervention educators and literacy leaders who seek a foundational understanding of literacy assessment in grades 4–12. It is also appropriate for Grades 4 and 6 classroom teachers who administer and analyze literacy assessment data. Participants learn about the different types of assessment (screening, diagnostic, progress monitoring, and summative), along with a model for using progress monitoring assessments throughout the school year for students receiving intervention instruction. Additionally, the session will cover how to utilize reading assessment data to inform instructional decisions at the student, classroom, grade, and school levels.*

Session Topics Include: *Assessment and MTSS, A Secondary Literacy Instruction Model, A Grades 4-12 Screening and Diagnostic Assessment Model, Assessment Types and Terminology, Analyzing Assessment Data, Matching Students to Interventions*

Connecting This Session to Keys to Literacy’s Comprehensive Professional Learning Suite: *This session can stand alone as an overview of reading assessment and use of data in grades 4-12. It complements and pairs well with Session H, “Supporting Adolescents With Literacy Difficulties.”*



Contact Keys to Literacy for more information:

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