

Maryland Reading Screening & Early Intervention Efforts



- 1. Beacon Site Reading Screening & Early Interventions Model: St. Mary's County Public Schools (SMCPS)** Superintendent Scott Smith identified a need to improve the district's screening and intervention framework to better identify and help struggling students and students with dyslexia. As a result, SMCPS in collaboration with the [National Center on Improving Literacy \(NCIL\)](#), the MD State Dept. of Education and Decoding Dyslexia Maryland, will implement district wide training to support a universal reading screening pilot program. The pilot is one of five NCIL Beacon Site partnerships and is a national exemplar for screening best practices.
- 2. Professional Learning in Comprehensive, Structured Literacy: Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS)** identified a problem with early screening and reading instruction and is retraining 700 educators (general and special education) in [Orton Gillingham](#) to work with struggling readers to prevent and remediate reading difficulties including dyslexia. BCPS offers professional learning for educators through [Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling \(LETRS\)](#) training that provides educators with knowledge and practice in [comprehensive structured literacy](#) reading/writing instruction and intervention. BCPS is working to build its screening process across all schools to support effective implementation.
- 3. Renowned Research Scientists to Present Reading and Dyslexia Screening Research at the University of Maryland Symposium:** On December 8, in the Colony Ballroom at the University of Maryland, [Drs. Nadine Gaab](#), Boston Children's Hospital and [Fumiko Hoeft](#), University of California, San Francisco, will present research on implementation of effective screening and intervention for young children PK-2.
 - [Dr. Martha Denckla](#), Professor Emeritus at Kennedy Krieger, and research scientist for Johns Hopkins University for many years, will be recognized for her groundbreaking work in rapid automatized naming (RAN), a reliable and valid screener that is predictive for dyslexia and reading difficulties.
 - Information about this event, including a formal invitation, is forthcoming.
- 4. NEA New Business Item: Reading Screening & Interventions:** NEA will use existing resources to:
 - Share existing research and finding about struggling readers (students unable to learn to read at an age appropriate rate given appropriate instruction, students showing characteristics of dyslexia ("pre-dyslexic tendencies"), and/or students identified as having dyslexia), their experiences, and the effects of struggling to read on their lives;
 - Promote the use of culturally responsive universal screening and early reading intervention in states not currently doing so;
 - Promote instructional practices that include existing evidence-based, multi-sensory, explicit, and systematic phonics instruction, in the general education classroom, for early struggling readers.

Screening Resources

- [Screen and Intervene](#), collaborative effort among research scientists and education-related research universities
- [National Center on Improving Literacy](#): Mandated by ESSA, 2015 to focus on reading/dyslexia
- [Ready to Read. Ready to Succeed](#), Southern Region Education Board (MD is a board member)