



LONG ISLAND
LITERACY COALITION

We are a coalition dedicated to promoting evidence-based methods of literacy instruction in the Long Island community backed by the Science of Reading.



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Our Mission

- Increase awareness about SoR and Structured Literacy practices
- Reach All Literacy Stakeholders – especially those new to SoR
- Grow knowledge about which programs and practices are evidence-based and yield high gains – and identify those that do not



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Tonight's Agenda

- Transform Your Literacy Landscape: How to Advocate for Evidence-based Best Practices
- How the “Polite Squeaky Wheel” can advocate for SoR at their school
- Important: This forum will maintain professional confidentiality at all times. No live discussions will be recorded. Follow up materials and resource links will be posted below and sent to our registrants.

Transform Your Literacy Landscape

How the polite squeaky wheel can
advocate for SOR



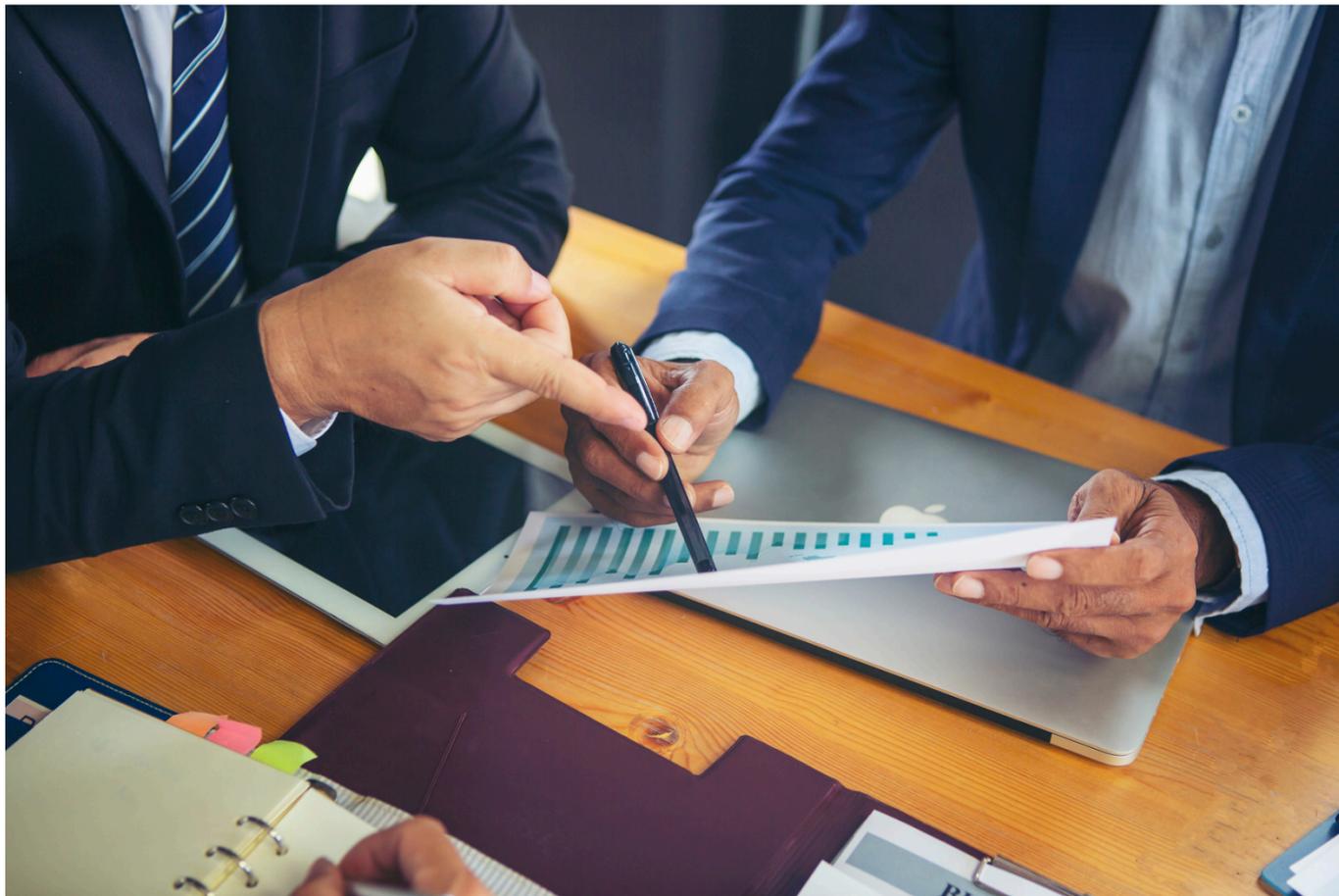


“This instructional time belongs to children...we have to think really carefully about how we use this valuable, precious window that children can’t get back again. It’s not for us to be doing experiments on children.”

-Professor Pamela Snow

IF WE DON'T SPEAK UP, WHO WILL?

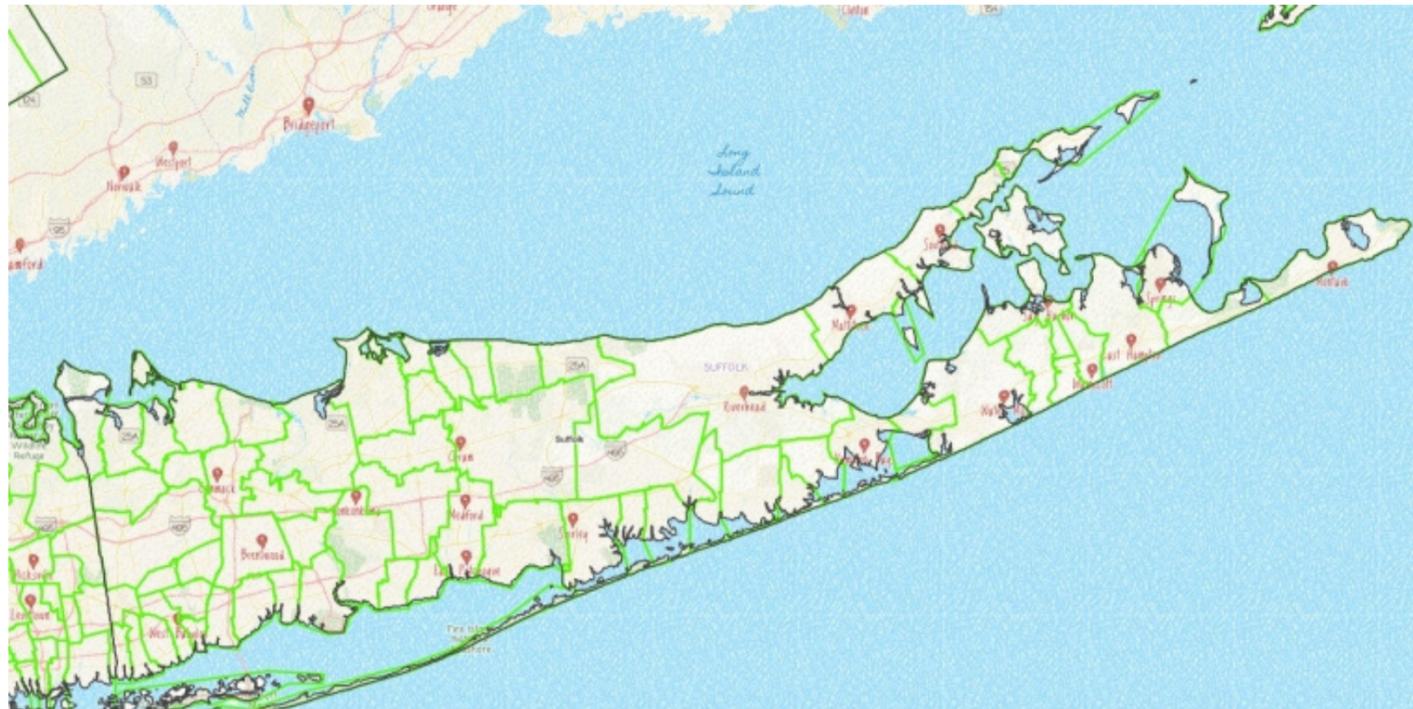
It's our job to inform school leaders about SoR



- **District Board of Education**
- **District Superintendent**
- **School Principals**
- **Admins:**
 - *Curriculum*
 - *Literacy*
 - *Humanities*
 - *Special Ed + Pupil Personnel Services*
- **Parent Organization Leaders and Delegates**

NEW YORK IS A LOCAL CONTROL STATE

What it means:



- 730 public school districts in NYS
- 124 districts in Nassau and Suffolk
- In New York, school boards oversee public school districts and make decisions about budgeting, policies, and educational programs.
- Even though there are no mandated programs, schools are responsible to demonstrate their alignment to SOR through the attestation process.

Graphic Source
NYS Senate Website

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

How they work:



- **Open Meetings Law requires 72 hrs notice to the public**
- **Executive sessions are closed to public**
- **Yearly schedule approved at Reorganization Meeting**
- **Email District Clerk for meetings list**
- **Check your school district website for:**
 - *meeting schedule*
 - *agendas*
 - *minutes*
 - *presentations on literacy outcomes and data*
- **Many schools use Board Docs platform**
- **Attendance tip: *check in with District Clerk before meeting starts to sign in and get on public comment list***
- **Two public comment periods: agenda items, non agenda**

WAYS TO SPEAK UP

Share your literacy concerns:



- **Public comment at Board of Education meetings:**
 - *Be aware that you must state your address*
 - *Remember to thank the BOE President, Trustees, and Superintendent*
 - *Keep it to 3 mins or less*
 - *Follow up with email*
- **Letter to Admins, Superintendent, and Board of Ed:**
 - *Remember to thank them*
 - *Make sure to proofread first*
 - *Wait a day before sending!*
- **Letter to the Editor of your local newspaper**
- **Share letter to the Editor on social media**

WANT TO RUN FOR BOARD OF ED?

What is expected:



Source
NYS School Boards Association

- **Can you say that you've been involved in your district?**
 - *Are you in a committee or active member of parent org?*
 - *Have you attended BOE meetings in the past?*
- **Can you commit to attending all of the meetings?**
 - *This includes nonpublic executive sessions and trainings*
 - *This is an unpaid, 3 year commitment*
- **Can you keep sensitive school info confidential?**
- **Can you attend school events?**
- **Can you commit to committees?**
- **Can you commit to reading:**
 - *School district policies and procedures*
 - *Contracts and financial documents*
 - *State laws and regulations*
- **Can you vote publicly on school matters?**

RUNNING FOR BOARD OF ED

What it entails:



- **Dates to know:**
 - *candidate packets released ~March*
 - *nominating petitions filed ~mid April*
 - *Budget vote & Election Day ~3rd week of May*
- **Report Campaign expenses and contributions**
- **Expect to answer questions and speak with voters:**
 - *Meet the Candidate nights*
 - *Fundraising events*
 - *Knocking on doors*
 - *Asking for endorsements*
- **Marketing materials:**
 - *lawn signs*
 - *flyers/posters/brochures*
- **Create online presence**
 - *FB campaign page*
 - *Website*

GETTING INVOLVED

Opportunities include:



- **Over the summer look into committees you can join:**
 - Shared Decision-Making Committee
 - *Strategic Planning committee*
 - *Curriculum committee*
- **Join your PTA/PTO:**
 - *ask to be a delegate on district level committees*
 - *opportunity to get to know + speak with principal*
- **Join SEPTA/SEPTO:**
 - *suggest credible SOR-aligned speakers*
 - *suggest film screenings of literacy documentaries*

SCHOOL DISTRICT RED FLAGS

Barriers to addressing literacy

- ▶ **Parents/community members are not invited to serve on committees**
- ▶ **Shared Decision-Making Committee Plan is not publicly available**
- ▶ **School district is not transparent with student achievement data**
- ▶ **School district does not post meeting minutes or presentations**
- ▶ **Curriculum presentations gloss over need for improvement**
- ▶ **BOE does not question poor literacy outcomes**
- ▶ **BOE does not speak up about, or is unaware of, the Science of Reading**
- ▶ **Superintendent and BOE prioritize non-academic goals**
- ▶ **School district still invests in debunked methods + programs + trainers**
- ▶ **School district simply rebrands their literacy curriculum**

ACTIONABLE NEXT STEPS

Be the “polite squeaky wheel”


Advocacy Checklist

- Join your district advisory committees:**
 - Shared Decision-Making • Strategic Planning • Curriculum
 - Email Superintendent if there are no opportunities to join, or shared decision-making is not listed
- Join your district's PTA/PTO/SEPTA/SEPTO**
 - Ask to be a delegate on district level committees
 - Suggest credible SOR-aligned speakers
 - Introduce yourself to the principal + start building a relationship
 - If there is no SEPTA/SEPTO, gather support from your community + reach out to the state PTA
- Consistently attend your BOE meetings**
 - Speak on literacy issues affecting your district (3 mins or less)
 - Speak on creating more opportunities for parent involvement
 - Invite BOE members to attend literacy presentations
 - Make sure you arrive prior to the start of the meeting + sign in with the District Clerk
- Submit public comments about literacy concerns**
 - Send a written version of your speech to your BOE + Superintendent
 - Share your speech in your district community FB group
 - Encourage other parents + students to make public comments
 - If there is no response or action taken by BOE or Superintendent, send a letter to the Editor
- Consider running for Board of Ed**
 - Research election deadlines/requirements + gather signatures
 - Create online presence + marketing materials
 - Gather endorsements + prepare for campaign events
 - Plan next steps for literacy advocacy, if elected

- Prepare to advocate for SOR in your school
 - Use the checklist for guidance
 - Share this checklist with other parents
 - Invite people to our literacy coalition
- Share with us what you're doing!

And remember, advocating for your child doesn't require permission—it requires persistence.

Be courteous. Be firm.

SOR RESOURCES FOR PARENTS, TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS

FREE ONLINE TRAINING

[SUNY New Paltz: SOR Webinars](#)

[Keys to Literacy: Webinars + Videos](#)

[AIM Institute: Free Resources](#)

[The Reading League: Compass](#)

[95% Group: On Demand Webinars](#)

[Literacy How: Video Library](#)

[Cox Campus: PK-5 Structured Literacy Program](#)

[Reading Rockets: Reading 101 Modules](#)

[National Center For Improving Literacy: Resources](#)

[Center for Community Inclusion Literacy Workshops](#)

PAID COURSES + PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

[SUNY New Paltz SOR Microcredential](#)

[Keys to Literacy: Keys to Beginning Reading](#)

[AIM Institute: Pathways](#)

[The Reading League: Professional Development](#)

[95% Group: Top Ten Tools](#)

[Literacy How: Professional Development](#)

[LETRS Training \(Lexia/BOCES\)](#)

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

[The Reading League: Shop](#)

[IMSE: 10 Essential Books on SOR](#)



CONNECT WITH US

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 longislandliteracycoalition.com

 [instagram.com/li.literacycoalition](https://www.instagram.com/li.literacycoalition)

 [facebook.com/longislandliteracycoalition](https://www.facebook.com/longislandliteracycoalition)

 [youtube.com/@LongIslandLiteracyCoalition](https://www.youtube.com/@LongIslandLiteracyCoalition)

 [Long Island Literacy Coalition - Action Alerts](#)

