



**Regional Educational  
Laboratory Southeast**

# Assembling a Consortium of Early Childhood Stakeholders to Participate in Professional Learning Communities

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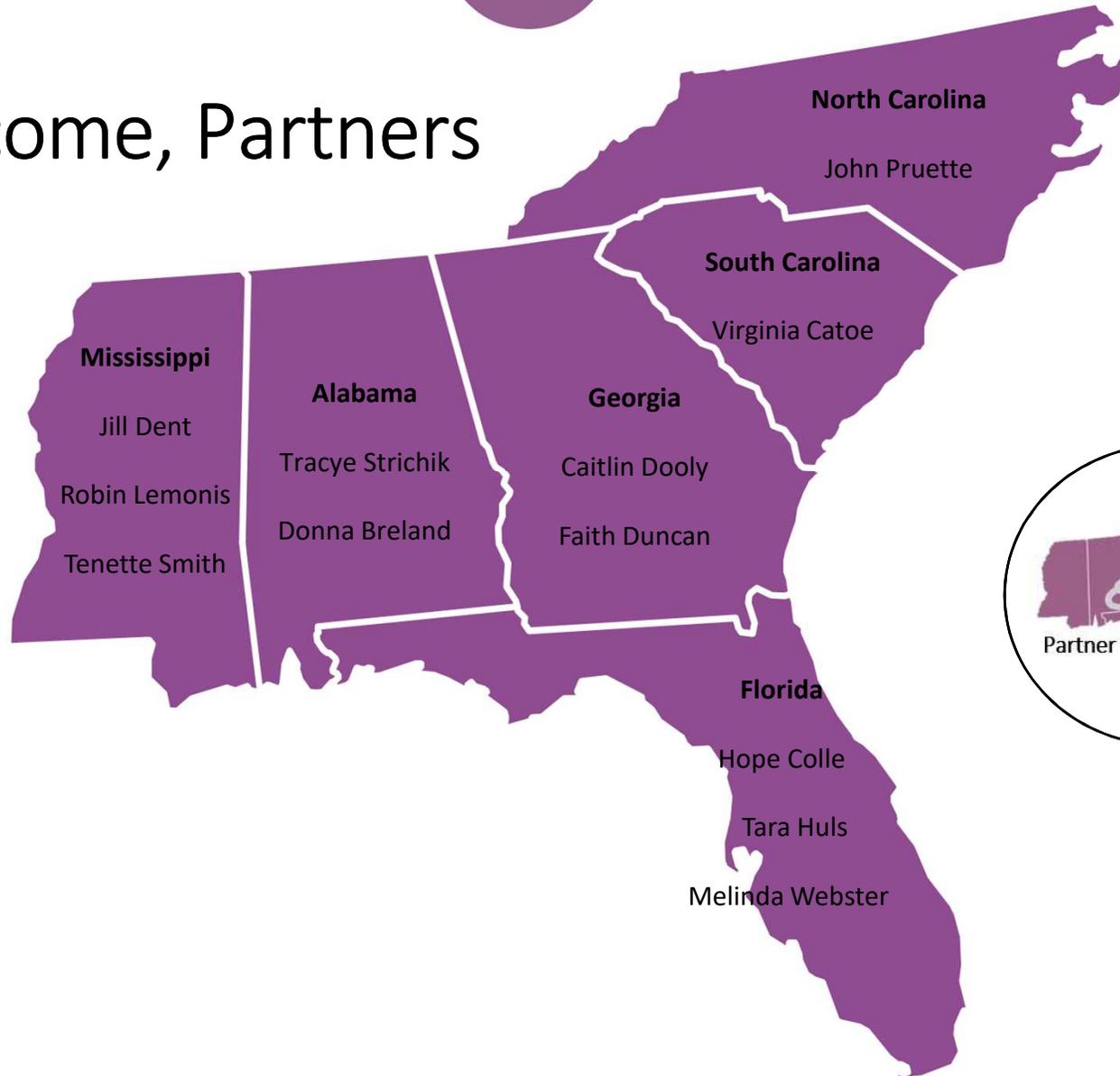
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# Welcome, Partners





# Agenda



- Welcome and Introductions
- Overview of Southeast School Readiness Partnership
- Today's Objectives
  - Professional Learning Models
  - A PLC Focused on Emergent Literacy
  - Stakeholders, Communication, and Sustainability
  - Questions & Answers
- Wrap Up



# Southeast School Readiness Partnership Outcomes

- A suite of Early Literacy Professional Learning Community (PLC) materials
  - Facilitator Guide, Participant Guide, Videos
- Capstone train-the-trainer event to disseminate the PLC materials
- School Readiness partnership members autonomously build future PLCs



# Responsibilities of Partners

- Participate in four 2-hour webinars and/or identify others to do so (2018-2019)
- Participate in the development (e.g., identify FAQs, provide feedback on drafts) of the PLC materials (2017-2019)
- Identify potential facilitators to participate in the train-the-trainer event (summer 2020)
- Assist in dissemination (2020)



# Today's Objectives

- Increase understanding of a process of assembling a consortium of early childhood stakeholders to participate in PLCs by:
  - Discussing professional learning models
  - Discussing a PLC focused on emergent literacy
  - Identifying potential stakeholders, ways of communication, and sustainability in each state



What are some challenges your state faces across the full landscape of emergent literacy instructional practices for early childhood?



## Professional Learning about Emergent Literacy Is Needed for ECE Teachers

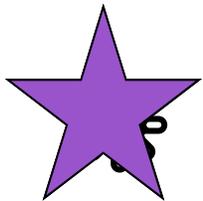
- Address the gap of emergent literacy and language skills in children entering kindergarten
- Many early childhood programs use curricula and instructional materials that are not empirically supported
- Evidence-based instructional practices may not have been part of preservice or in-service training



# Professional Development Models

✓ Curriculum-specific

✓ Workshops



Professional Learning Community



## Professional Learning Community

*Educators who collaborate to expand their knowledge and enhance their instruction to improve student achievement.*

### **Characteristics**

- Small group
- Meets regularly
- Varying topics
- Varying formats



# Advantages of PLCs

- Adds coherence and continuous learning to professional development
- Fosters teacher learning
- Improves professional culture of a school
- Builds professional relationships



# Advantages of the PLC Format

- Applies to a variety of curricular contexts
- Cost-effective
- Embedded support for facilitator
- Peer-collaboration



# Sustainability

*Maintaining the momentum generated by interaction among members in their regularly-scheduled meetings.*

## Key Elements

- Evidence-based instructional practices are routine
- Peer-to-peer support
- Follow-up



# Our Emergent Literacy PLC

## Goal:

To provide a collaborative learning experience for early childhood educators to expand their knowledge of evidence-based emergent literacy key ideas and strategies. In turn, early childhood educators will provide 3–5-year-old children evidence-based emergent literacy instruction.



# Who should be included in a PLC?

- PLCs members could include:
  - Teachers serving the same or adjacent age-groups
  - Both lead and assistant teachers, as appropriate and available
  - Teachers from across the school, district, or region, as feasible



# Please Answer the Poll on the Format of the Facilitator Guide

- A. PowerPoint slides with speaker notes
  
- B. Book-like
  
- C. Other



# Logistics of PLC Implementation



1. When does the PLC meet?
2. Will subs be needed?
3. What about CEU's?
4. Other questions?



# Characteristics of PLC Facilitator



What characteristics do you foresee being important for a PLC facilitator?



# Characteristics of PLC Facilitator

- Strong background and experience of content
- Good communication skills
- Leadership experience
- Ability to relate well to adult learners



## Who Are Stakeholders in Your State?



- Who would most benefit from participating in the PLC we develop?
- Who could facilitate the PLC we develop?



# Please Answer the Poll on Communication



Check each communication method that is an effective way to disseminate information about early childhood professional learning in your state:

- A. Email
- B. Social media
- C. Website
- D. E-newsletters
- E. Other



Questions





## Post-Webinar 1 Activity (Submit Questions to Sheryl)

1. Using knowledge from this presentation and your experience in the field, what are frequently asked questions (FAQs) about teaching print knowledge?
2. What are FAQs about how children acquire print knowledge?



## Post-Webinar 2 Activity

### Submit Questions to Sheryl

What are frequently asked questions (FAQs) about teaching phonological awareness?



# Wrap Up