



**REL Southeast**  
Director's Email

January 2023

## Greetings from the REL Southeast,

Today's global information economy requires that students possess more advanced literacy skills than previous generations. However, improvements in the literacy development of older students have not kept pace with the increasing demands for literacy in the workplace or postsecondary educational settings. Data from the 2022 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in reading reports that only 31 percent of eighth-grade students were able to perform at or above the NAEP Proficient level on the reading assessment, 3 percentage points lower than 2019 scores. To improve reading ability, students must refine and build upon their reading skills, and teachers of adolescents who struggle with reading should help them acquire more advanced skills.

The REL Southeast has and continues to work with states, districts, and schools to support educators and help them achieve this goal. This month, we'd like to share resources regarding adolescent literacy that were designed specifically for classroom teachers, school leaders, and even parents and caregivers. We hope you find these materials informative and useful, and as always, thank you for helping to improve educational outcomes for every student in our region.

With gratitude,

**Dr. Nicole Patton Terry**  
*Director, REL Southeast*



## [Improving Literacy in Mississippi –The Journey Continues](#)

The Mississippi success story of improving the literacy skills of students in the early grades is widely known and well-documented. The state continues to focus on strong literacy instruction in grades K-3 but is also turning their attention to the next leg of their journey to improve the skills of ALL students, which is to address instruction in grades 4 and up. In this recent blog post, you'll learn about the REL Southeast's Mississippi Adolescent Literacy Partnership and the work they're doing around the state to improve adolescent literacy skills and provide training to literacy intervention teachers.

Explore the Practice Guides discussed in the blog

[Teaching Secondary Students to Write Effectively](#)

[Improving Adolescent Literacy: Effective Classroom and Intervention Practices](#)



## [Guide and Checklists for a School Leader's Walkthrough during Literacy Instruction in Grades 4-12](#)

This tool was developed to assist school leaders in observing specific research-based practices during literacy instruction in grade 4-12 classrooms and students' independent use or application of those practices. The tool aims to help school leaders conduct brief and frequent walkthroughs throughout the school year.

[Click here to explore the tool.](#)



## [Literacy Tips for Parents of Adolescents](#)

This infographic provides several evidence-informed activities that parents can initiate at home to help ensure successful literacy outcomes for their adolescent students.

[Click here to explore the infographic.](#)



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