

DAY ONE SCHEDULE

Wednesday 20 August 2025

Cultivating
the Literacy
Landscape



9:00am - 9:15am

Welcome



9:15am - 10:45am
KEYNOTE

Dr Kymyona Burk

Leading Literacy Change: Mississippi's Story and Shared Insight

Dr. Kymyona Burk will share the remarkable journey of Mississippi's literacy transformation, highlighting the policies, practices, and leadership that drove significant gains in student outcomes. Attendees will gain insight into the challenges, strategies implemented, and collective effort required to create lasting, system-wide change. Dr. Burk's expertise offers invaluable lessons for leaders and educators committed to improving literacy achievement.

10:45am - 11:15am

Morning Tea



11:15am - 12:30pm
Breakout Sessions

Breakout 1

Dr Daryl Michel

Ensuring professional learning translates to classroom application and system-wide improvement.

Breakout 2

Dr Lorraine Hammond

Explicit Direct Instruction: Practical workshop.

Breakout 3

Sylvia Dunkley and Sara Mines

Leading the Way: The impact of a deliberate literacy leadership journey across a kāhui ako – from primary through to secondary.

Breakout 4

Ruth Blair

Reading Instruction for Capable Readers (Year 4 and Above): Building background knowledge and vocabulary.

12:30pm - 1:30pm

Lunch



1:30pm - 2:45pm
Breakout Sessions

Breakout 1

Natalie Wexler

Strategies for writing instruction and the integration of a knowledge-rich curriculum.

Breakout 2

Emma Nahna

Unpacking DIBELS: Understanding and using data to inform literacy teaching.

Breakout 3

Erin Palmer

Developmental Language Disorder (DLD): What it looks like and practical support strategies.

Breakout 4

Darnelle Darlison

Bringing Te Mātaiaho to Life: Integrating structured literacy through progressions and cross-curricular links.

2:45pm - 3:00pm

Afternoon Tea



3:00pm - 4:30pm
KEYNOTE

Dr Daryl Michel

Coaching: A Cornerstone of Quality Literacy Implementation

Daryl Michel's keynote will explore the essential role of coaching in effective literacy instruction. He'll discuss how high-quality, sustained coaching supports teachers in refining their practice and consistently applying evidence-based strategies. Attendees will learn how coaching fosters collaborative professional growth that can lead to improved student outcomes, offering practical approaches to embed coaching into their literacy initiatives.

4:30pm - 4:45pm

Close

DAY TWO SCHEDULE

Thursday 21 August 2025

Cultivating
the Literacy
Landscape



9:00am - 9:15am

Welcome

Natalie Wexler



9:15am - 10:45am
KEYNOTE

Beyond the Science of Reading: Connecting Literacy Instruction to the Science of Learning

Natalie Wexler will delve into the intersection of literacy instruction and cognitive science, emphasising the importance of building knowledge alongside reading skills. She'll explore how understanding the science of learning can strengthen literacy practices, offering strategies to close knowledge gaps and improve comprehension. This keynote will challenge and inspire educators to align their teaching with research on how students best acquire and retain information.

10:45am - 11:15am

Morning Tea



11:15am - 12:30pm
Breakout Sessions

Breakout 1

Dr Kymyona Burk

Being Culturally Responsive in Literacy: Insights from Mississippi's approach to equity.

Breakout 2

Marianne Brown

Practical phonological awareness tasks.

Breakout 3

Casey Simson and Theresa Kinloch

From Data to Action: Using evidence to drive progress in Years 0-3.

Breakout 4

Carla McNeil

Effective and Efficient Instruction: Strategies to take our instruction (across the curriculum) from good to great.

12:30pm - 1:30pm

Lunch



1:30pm - 2:45pm
Breakout Sessions

Breakout 1

Natalie Wexler

Bridging the knowledge gap - let's talk about closing the gap and equity. How to build knowledge.

Breakout 2

Andrea Harnett and Adela Brown

Leading Through Change: The highs, the lows, and everything in between.

Breakout 3

Esmee Elias-Tito and Paula Hastings

Tier 2 Targeted Instruction - The what and how.

Breakout 4

Secondary implementation - Panel discussion

Structured Literacy at Secondary: From planning to practice.

2:45pm - 3:00pm

Afternoon Tea

Dr Lorraine Hammond



3:00pm - 4:30pm
KEYNOTE

Empowering Learning: The Science Behind Instruction That Works

Dr. Lorraine Hammond will explore the instructional practices that drive progress for more - and all - learners. Drawing from her extensive research and practical experience, she'll highlight the impact of systematic, direct teaching methods, daily review, and high-quality feedback. Attendees will leave with actionable strategies to implement evidence-based approaches in their classrooms, strengthening both engagement and learning outcomes.

4:30pm - 4:45pm

Close