

# Oregon Kids Read



## Science of Reading Training Transforms Oregon Teachers' Practice in the Classroom

*"I am forever changed as an instructor because of it. What LETRS provided me and can provide teachers throughout Oregon is priceless."*  
- Molly Herrera, teacher with 19 years classroom experience, Portland Public Schools

In the spring of 2020, Portland Public Schools (PPS) launched an initiative to reverse Oregon's reading crisis where over 50% of our third graders - and over 70% of our Black, Indigenous and other third graders of color - aren't reading at grade level. Four decades of research proves that almost any child can learn to read given the right instruction. PPS has committed to offering all of its K-5 teachers the training they need to deliver that instruction.

During their Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) training, teachers learned the neuroscience behind how kids develop reading skills and concrete ways to support students in becoming literate. In a post-training survey of teachers\*:

**72% said that in their teacher prep programs before becoming educators, they received "hardly any" or "none" of the content covered in LETRS**

*"During my M.A.T. (Masters of Arts in Teaching) program, I was taught nothing about how students learn to read...LETRS has filled in so much missing information."* - High School ESL (English as a Second Language) Instructor

**86% said LETRS training has impacted their practice as teachers in the classroom**

*"With LETRS I am understanding the processes myself and I feel confident that I can teach better than ever. I am chomping at the bit to get back to my kindergartners equipped with my new skills and knowledge."* - Kindergarten Teacher

**93% said LETRS training impacted their content knowledge**

*"I am taking this course to improve professionally and to better serve the students I teach [in a dual immersion program at a Title 1 School]... I feel the need to be part of the system that provides our students with the opportunity and support for them to thrive."* - K-5 Instructional Specialist

\* Post-LETRS Training Survey, Portland Public Schools, 2020

Want to know more? Visit [OregonKidsRead.com](https://OregonKidsRead.com) or email [oregonkidsread@gmail.com](mailto:oregonkidsread@gmail.com)

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