

Teaching Literacy in Tennessee

Professional Learning Package Overview and Library

Description

Professional Learning Packages (PL Packages) are professional development tools designed to deepen educators' understanding of key topics related to literacy instruction. PL Packages are based around Tennessee's professional learning standards and are intended as an off-the-shelf collaborative learning resource that districts can use flexibly based on their unique student and teacher needs.

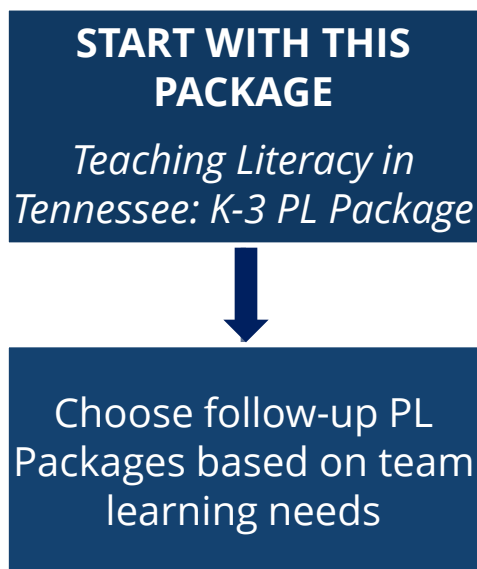
Each PL Package is composed of a series of connected **learning sessions**. Learning sessions are action-oriented, with tangible outputs teachers can use in classrooms right away. Learning sessions are designed to take 45-60 minutes.

Professional Learning Package Library



Teaching Literacy in Tennessee: K-3 PL Package

This PL Package is designed to facilitate understanding of and engagement with *Teaching Literacy in Tennessee*, a guidance document published by the Tennessee Department of Education in 2017 that lays out a comprehensive vision for effective literacy instruction across the state. This session provides an essential foundation that all other PL Packages build upon, so it should be completed first before beginning any other PL Packages.



The *Teaching Literacy in Tennessee: K-3* PL Package walks educators through the most important pieces of *Teaching Literacy in Tennessee* (TLiT) with questions and prompts that promote comprehension and the integration of key ideas. It is designed to be completed in a group setting with reflection and discussion. This PL Package contains two learning sessions that are each approximately 45 minutes in length. Content for the learning sessions is provided in the PL Package Participant Learning Guide. The Facilitator Guide offers notes for facilitating the learning session in a separate document.

Participants will need access to *Teaching Literacy in Tennessee* to complete this PL Package. *Teaching Literacy in Tennessee* can be accessed online [here](#), or at the following URL:

https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/readready/documents/2018-folder/teaching_literacy_in_tn_update_2_6_18.pdf

Educators should read *Teaching Literacy in Tennessee* prior to beginning this PL Package.



Unit Starter PL Package

The purpose of the Unit Starter PL Package is to prepare educators to teach with Unit Starters effectively. It walks educators through each component of the Unit Starter and provides resources to help teachers understand the goals of the Unit Starter they plan to teach. The PL Package is organized into two modules:

- Module 1: Preparing to Teach with Unit Starters
- Module 2: Refining Instruction with Unit Starters

The first module is designed to be completed prior to teaching with the Unit Starters and focuses on preparing teachers for instruction. The second module is designed to be completed after teaching with the Unit Starter and supports teachers in reflecting on and refining their instructional practices.

The guiding questions for the first module in this PL Package are:

- What is a Unit Starter?
- Why teach with Unit Starters?
- What resources are included in the Unit Starter?
- How do Unit Starters support standards-based instruction?
- How are concepts and understandings organized in the Unit Starter?
- How are concepts and understandings supported by the Unit Starter's texts, tasks, and question sequences?
- How can I prepare to teach with the Unit Starter?

The guiding questions for the second module in this PL Package are:

- What growth did students make as a result of engagement with the Unit Starters?
- What growth did I make as a teacher as a result of engagement with the Unit Starters?
- How can I refine my instruction moving forward?