

SoMLA News

November 2024



**Bridging Young Readers
to Forever Readers** AGAIN
2025 CONFERENCE

Upcoming Events

Assembly Meeting:

Networking Event

11.02.24 9:30-1:30

Chesapeake College

Elevate Your Literacy in 60 Minutes

Moving Forward with Social emotional
Learning.

11.11.24 4:00-5:00

Engaging Strategies for Reading and
Spelling.

12.11.24 4:00-5:00

Developmentally Appropriate Pre-
Reading for ECE

01.08.25 6:30-7:30

ILA Announces Partnership

ILA developed a plan for partnering with SoMLA chapters to provide program, promotional, and sponsorship support for the annual events. This would allow ILA to facilitate opportunities for educators to connect and engage with one another in a way that's most responsive to members' needs. ILA will have a presence during the April 2-3, 2025 SoMLA conference. **Free 1 year ILA membership will be available for Early bird registration.**

Comprehensive PreK-3 Literacy Policy

The Literacy Policy is designed to improve literacy outcomes for all Maryland students, particularly those who are disadvantaged or at risk, provide guidance and support to LEAs in implementing effective literacy programs, and aligns with the State BOE's goals for improving educational outcomes for all students.

Evidence-based approach: align with the science of reading.

Equity: providing high-quality literacy instruction to all students.

Early Intervention: early identification and intervention for students at risk.

Collaboration: collaboration between schools, families, and communities.

Recent highlights

Assembly Meeting Notes- September 21, 2024

Guest Speaker: Stephanie Dale- MSDE

- June 2025 - Literacy summit focused on adolescent literacy
 - call for proposals upcoming (anticipated end of calendar year)
- Contact Stephanie Dale at MSDE with ideas
 - stephanie.dale@maryland.gov

Sponsor: Stuart Bradshaw-EPS

- Goal is to patch holes wherever there are holes
- SPIRE - intensive intervention
- Contact Stuart Bradshaw at EPS for additional questions
 - Stuart.Bradshaw@epslearning.com

Elevate Literacy in 60 Minutes

October 7, 2024 ~ Teach Reading Skills by Saturating the Senses Presented by Julie Armstrong. Recording available to SoMLA members.

Chapter Highlights

- Howard Chapter membership drive: September 30, 2024.
- Upper Shore Fall Kick off: October 9, 2024.
- Prince George's Chapter membership drive: October 16, 2024.
- Eastern Shore Member Mixer: November 4, 2024.
- Dr. Shelly Huggins from Towson University published an article Re-Centering Students and Teachers: Voices from Literacy Clinics, in the September/October 2024 Reading Teacher.





Bridging Young Readers to Forever Readers AGAIN 2025 CONFERENCE

Conference Team

Sandy Keaton~ Conference Chair

keatonsomla@gmail.com

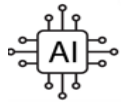
Mary Lou Nelson~ Exhibitor Coordinator

somla.exhibitor@gmail.com

Kelly Davis ~ Conference Coordinator

kellydavis.davis@gmail.com

2025 CONFERENCE STRANDS



**Artificial
Intelligence
in the Classroom**

Science of Reading Instructional Strategies



**Empowering
Educators, Students,
and Families**



Our next area of focus

- [Concurrent Proposals](#): Concurrent sessions will be 50 minutes in length. Proposals for concurrent sessions must be received by **Friday, December 6, 2024**. Applicants submitting proposals will be notified by email of acceptance or non-acceptance by **Friday, January 3, 2025**. **Presenters must be current 2024-2025 members of a local literacy chapter, which includes membership in SoMLA. If you are not a member, you can join today!** *All Presenters are required to pay the registration fee.*

Young Authors' Important Dates:

- **January 26, 2025, at 7am**: All entries are due digitally. We will meet at 7am via Zoom to ensure entries made it in and there are no technical glitches. Calendar invite will come later.
- **Feb. 2-16, 2025**: State judging window.
- **Feb. 23, 2025**: Local Chairs notified of finalists (top place winners in each category); postcards announcements to finalists will follow shortly afterwards.
- **April 2, 2025**: Award ceremony at SoMLA Conference. 6:30 PM

Early Bird Registration opens December 2024 and closes February 2025

Early Bird Pricing	Member	Non-Member
2 Days	\$180.00 + ILA membership	\$250.00 + ILA membership
1 Day	\$150.00 + ILA membership	\$220.00 + ILA membership
Regular pricing	Member	Non-Member
2 Days	\$200.00	\$270.00
1 Day	\$175.00	\$245.00

