



PennState
College of Education

Fully Online PA K-12 Reading Specialist Certification With MEd Option

This program is designed to attract teachers interested in exploring the intersection of literacy teaching, literacy learning, and social justice. Candidates will examine the current structures within which literacy education exists while also interrogating those structures to uncover their role in upholding institutional racism and other system-level inequities.

Candidates will explore questions including: What is the potential of literacy teaching and learning to deconstruct barriers to social justice? How has literacy been defined, by whom, and to what ends? How do literacy learners' identities (related to race, class, culture, gender, sexual orientation, disability, cognitive differences, and geographic location) have the potential to position them inequitably by and within school systems? What is the potential for literacy to foster personal and social agency? Successful graduates will apply an asset-based lens to develop appropriate supports for students while also working to challenge systemic inequities.



Penn State is committed to providing employment opportunities to all qualified applicants without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, or protected veteran status. The Pennsylvania State University encourages qualified persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact keh118@psu.edu in advance of your participation or visit. U.Ed. EDU 22-98

WHY PENN STATE?

Develop a deep understanding of literacy teaching and research, with close emphasis on the social context of literacy learning through coursework that engages deeply with issues of literacy and social justice education.

Read, think, and learn with in-depth considerations of linguistic, cognitive, sociocultural, and critical perspectives on working with literacy learners.

Work in classroom settings with students experiencing difficulty learning to read and write, coach classroom teachers, or provide district-level literacy teaching, assessment, and curricular leadership.

Program courses are taught by the nationally prominent faculty members teaching in-person courses at the University Park campus.

**SCAN TO
APPLY NOW**



CONTACT INFO

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APPLY

Official Transcripts · Letters of Recommendation (MEd option only) · \$35 Application Fee · Writing Sample · No Test Scores Required · Rolling Admissions

REQUIREMENTS

Undergraduate Degree From an Accredited Institution · One Year PK-12 Teaching Experience · Complete Application

COMPETENCIES

- Interrogate the structures within which literacy education exists.
- Self-reflect on institutional racism and other system-level inequities.
- Disrupt traditions of literacy teaching.
- Create more just, joyful, and caring learning environments for all students.

31 COURSE CREDITS

- Literacy & Social Justice Education
- The Reading & Writing Classroom
- The Psychology of Reading
- Inclusive Special Education
- Curriculum & Supervision
- Teaching as Inquiry
- Literacy Assessment
- Teaching English Language Learners
- Teaching Writing
- Remote Practicum