

California's Adolescent Literacy Initiative (CALI) Overview

Overview

California's Adolescent Literacy Initiative (a.k.a. CALI Reads) is a 5-year project to **improve middle school literacy** and outcomes for students with disabilities, through ongoing professional development (PD) training and coaching to teachers and administrators in California school districts with high numbers of struggling readers.

CALI is a grant awarded to the California Department of Education (CDE), who in turn has partnered with the Napa County Office of Education to administer and deliver the program. Districts can apply to participate in Fall 2018 [via CALIreads.org](https://calireads.org). CALI will run for 5 consecutive school years starting 2018–19 through 2022–23.

Key Differences in CALI (from Project READ)

1. Recruit ROY Districts and select within 3 ROY middle schools
2. Participants spread equally across CA regions: SoCal, MidCal, NorCal
3. Two different types of coaches: Regional and Site Coaches
4. Content training through Learning Management System & digicoach
5. Literacy & MTSS interwoven
6. Robust SPED strand

Focus Areas

Literacy Strategies and Interventions

Teacher professional development to support instruction of evidence-based literacy strategies of intensive word study, vocabulary, and comprehension across content areas and for targeted intervention, and to better support family literacy.

Multi-tiered Adolescent Literacy Systems

A framework to support literacy through established site and district leadership teams who engage in data-based problem solving and decision-making.

Supported Scale-up and Dissemination

Developing leaders and digital platforms (such as a Learning Portal / Learning Management System (LMS)) for sharing the literacy products and processes developed within CALI sites and district.

Benefits for Participating Districts/Sites

- CALI-trained Regional Coaches to support Districts around literacy systems development and LCAP integration
- CALI-trained Site Coaches to support school-level system development, and to provide literacy strategy training and individualized coaching to teachers and administrators
- Access to online training modules, videos, materials, and tools developed by national literacy experts
- Funds to support teacher release time/extended time for training, coaching, and attendance at regional CALI conferences
- High interest, low lexile books for classrooms
- iPads for accessing online training and coaching

Recruitment of Districts and Middle Schools

CALI will support literacy in middle schools, and their districts, across three California regions (North, Central, South). Within each region, three districts/areas will be selected for a total of 9 participating districts. Each district/area must have three middle school sites eligible to participate in CALI, with potential for a fourth to be added in Year 4 (2021–22).

CALI seeks to work with districts, and their middle schools, who demonstrate

- Need –a high percentage of struggling readers;
- Readiness –a commitment to schoolwide literacy.

Specific criteria for district and school site participation in CALI will be finalized by CDE early in the 2018–19 school year, and published in the application.

Note: Small and rural districts/schools within a similar geographic area who do not meet the criteria of having 3-4 middle schools can apply together as a consortium.

What Districts/Sites Will Need to Do

- Establish and maintain an active District Support Team and Site Implementation Team.
- Plan and implement a multi-tiered literacy system, including content area literacy focus, intervention programs, and collaborative data review.
- Support and encourage teachers and administrators to participate in training and coaching, apply strategies during instruction, and visit other classrooms to see strategies in action.
- Encourage administrators to be active instructional leaders.

For Further Information

Sign up to receive updates on CALI Reads and the application process by emailing your Name, Email Address, District/School, and Role to: info@CALIreads.org.