

ABOUT THE PRESENTATION:

Ready to rethink phoneme and grapheme practice? This session introduces a fresh, student-centered approach to structured literacy—rooted in the Science of Reading and aligned with Ohio Learning Standards. With about 1 in 5 students facing reading challenges (many showing signs of dyslexic traits), it's time to bring in strategies that actually connect.

You'll learn how to use simple tech tools to help students take charge of their learning—designing their own phoneme/grapheme practice in ways that boost motivation and build confidence. We'll also dive into practical, real-world strategies for building stronger home-school connections, making structured literacy practice easier and more meaningful for families.

Expect interactive activities, real classroom examples, and AI-generated resources you can start using tomorrow. Whether you're in general ed, intervention, or somewhere in between, you'll leave with practical tools to personalize instruction and reach every learner—more effectively and more intentionally.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER:

Julie Hicks is a passionate advocate for students with learning challenges, driven by her mission to “empower children with the gift of reading.” She currently serves as Secretary and Community Engagement Chair for the Northern Ohio Branch of the International Dyslexia Association (NOBIDA) and holds leadership roles with the Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities.

Julie brings extensive experience from Tiffin City Schools and the ESC of Lake Erie West, where she has led Science of Reading implementation, provided professional development, and supported structured literacy interventions. She is a certified IMSE Orton-Gillingham Structured Literacy Specialist and a certified LETRS Regional Facilitator.

As founder of Literacy Consulting of Ohio, LLC, Julie works as a dyslexia private practitioner and literacy consultant. Her advocacy work has helped turn landmarks like the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame red for Dyslexia Awareness Month and sparked school-wide awareness campaigns across northern Ohio.

Nationally, Julie contributes as a published author in *Literacy Today*, a member of the ETS/Praxis Reading Specialist Advisory Panel, and as a participant on multiple Ohio Department of Education and Workforce literacy committees.

