

## ABOUT THE PRESENTATION:

Twenty years since the landmark National Reading Panel and Report, children continue to experience challenges with comprehension. Our research team has identified the root causes of these problems and the findings will surprise even the most seasoned practitioners.

Our Knowledge Acquisition and Transformation (KAT) Framework addresses the root causes of the problem and has achieved 100% pass rates with children with dyslexia and other reading challenges. We will present the specifics about our solution and how it can be implemented by any practitioner hoping to solve this problem once and for all!

### Objectives:

1. Understand the causes of the reading challenges that children face.
2. Learn about the systematic and structured literacy approach of the KAT Framework.
3. Apply the framework with multiple example texts in narrative, expository, and poetry genres.

## ABOUT THE SPEAKER:

Dr. Kausalai (Kay) Wijekumar is Houston Endowment Chair, Chancellor's EDGES Fellow, and Director for the Center for Urban School Partnerships at Texas A&M University. She is a passionate advocate for all children and dedicates her research, development, and dissemination efforts to eradicating illiteracy.

Kay has developed web-based intelligent tutoring systems for reading and writing in English and Spanish. She has further developed and integrated teacher professional development systems using these web-based tools. To support the development, deployment, and research about these evidence-based practices in schools, Kay has secured over 80 million dollars in competitive grant funding from national agencies. Her work has been featured in the *What Works Clearinghouse* and *US News and World Report*.

Kay has mentored and supported over 30 advanced degree candidates for literacy through her grants. This mentorship includes numerous publications in prestigious journals and the inclusion of the next generation of literacy experts in the grants as project co-leaders. She has served two terms as an elected member of the Quaker Valley Board of School Directors to serve her community and ensuring high quality education for children. Her recent work integrates podcasts for families to encourage reading and writing at home. These podcasts are now available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese through her work in the European Literacy Network.

ENSURING COMPREHENSION  
SUCCESS FOR EVERY CHILD



**Kay Wijekumar, Ph.D.**