

Jessica Ziel

(208) 604-5793 • jziel@zielforalliteracy.com • www.zielforalliteracy.com

Education

2027 (exp)	Mount St. Joseph University	Ed.D.	Education, Science of Reading
2022	University of Central Arkansas	M.S.E.	Reading & Literacy
2002	Brigham Young University, UT	B.S.	Sociology
2000	Brigham Young University, ID	A.S.	Social Work

Training and Certifications

2023-Present	The Center for Effective Reading Instruction Certified Dyslexia Interventionist – #E181716
2019-Present	Idaho K-8 Teaching License
2022-Present	Idaho K-12 Literacy Credential
2018-2021	International Baccalaureate Training

Employment

- 2021-Present *Ziel for Literacy LLC*
Mission: To support the development of students' reading skills which will open-up pathways throughout their lives.
- In pursuit of that mission, I:
- Design asynchronous courses that enhance university and district programs.
Idaho Comprehensive Literacy Course
Offered by the University of Idaho, the course is required for out-of-state teachers who are seeking an Idaho license. Topics include explicit, systematic literacy instruction, foundational literacy skills, writing development, using assessment data, MTSS frameworks, supporting English Language Learners and dyslexic students. The course is aligned with Idaho state literacy standards.
Dyslexia Awareness 101
Focuses on identifying the characteristics of dyslexia, effective reading instruction and intervention, with an emphasis on the importance of structured literacy. Customized to the local agency's needs. The course satisfies the Idaho Dyslexia legislation requirement.
 - Evaluate educator certification programs
The American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence
 - Support school districts by guiding literacy curriculum adoption committees and offering hands-on professional learning experiences.
 - Support parents and families by providing structured literacy tutoring and helping them navigate the educational system.

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- 2021-2026 Striving to Meet Achievement in Reading Together (SMART) Project
Literacy Coach
- Supported over 100 K-3 Idaho educators in implementing evidence-based literacy practices through coaching, professional development, and data-driven decision making.
 - Designed literacy resources for teachers (e.g., lesson outlines, repository of structured literacy materials inside a Canvas course), teacher knowledge assessments, and program evaluation tools.
 - Provided in-person monthly book study sessions to teacher groups across the state. Provided over 300 sessions grounded in the Science of Reading, using *Speech to Print*.
- 2018-2021 Alturas International Academy
Elementary Teacher
- Taught 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade.
 - Designed and delivered differentiated lessons to meet the diverse academic needs of a multi-age classroom.
 - Developed student literacy skills for students, resulting in more than 90% of students meeting benchmark expectations on the Idaho State Literacy Assessment at the end of the school year.
 - Provided ongoing professional development in phonological awareness and phonics.
 - Developed a tutoring program with paraprofessionals to deliver explicit reading instruction virtually to meet student needs during COVID-19.
- 2017-2018 Alturas International Academy
Paraprofessional
- 2016-2017 Hawthorne Elementary
Paraprofessional

Professional Learning Presentations

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| 2025 | <u><i>Word Detectives: Morphology Division</i></u> | Statewide Website Project |
| | <i>Dyslexia at the Secondary Level</i> | Idaho Falls School District 91 Winter |
| | <i>Structured Literacy Walk Through</i> | Idaho Falls School District 91 Fall |
| 2024 | <i>You Can't Tier 2 Your Way Out of a Tier 1 Problem</i> | Idaho Falls School District 91 Fall |

Educational Leadership

- 2026 Idaho Comprehensive Literacy Plan, Writing Group

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Idaho Department of Education

Collaborated with a committee of four charged with revising and updating the Idaho Comprehensive Literacy Plan (114 pages), which focuses on literacy development in K-12. Personal contributions focused on writing state literacy goals and developing a new administrator tool kit (20 pages).

2023- Present Secretary, Founding Board Member
The Reading League Idaho

Nonprofit development experience (recruit board members, file Articles of Incorporation, form bylaws, establish policies, and all other tasks associated with nonprofit formation.)

Mission: To advance the awareness, understanding, and use of evidence-aligned reading instruction in the state of Idaho.

Presentations and Publications

Presentations

2026 *Ehri's Phases & Text Selection*, Sun Valley Early Literacy Conference

How to Use Assessments, Sun Valley Early Literacy Conference

Language is a Seed: Growing Language Through Conversation,

Idaho Home Educator Conference

Dyslexia 101 for Parents, Idaho Home Educator Conference

Oral Language, Idaho Region 5/6 SMART Summit

2025 *What is Structured Literacy?* Idaho Region 5/6 SMART Summit

Productive PLC: A Fish Tank, Sun Valley Early Literacy Conference

Word Detectives: Morphology for Little Ones, Mount St. Joseph University

Publications

Brown, S. A., Cort, C., Ward, W., & Ziel, J. (2026). *Comprehensive Literacy Plan: Kindergarten through 12th grade, June 2026*. Idaho State Board of Education.

Ziel, J., & Brown, S. A. (Manuscript in preparation). *Comprehensive Literacy Plan Toolkit: Kindergarten through 12th grade leadership support*.

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Professional Affiliations

The Reading League
International Dyslexia Association

References

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