Jessica Ziel

• (208) 604-5793 • jziel@zielforliteracy.com • www.zielforliteracy.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	B.S.	Sociology
2000	Brigham Young University Idaho	A.S.	Social Work

Training and Certifications

2023-Present	The Center for Effective Reading Instruction	Certified Dyslexia Interventionist – #E181716
2019-Present	Idaho K-8 License	Teaching Credential
2022-Present	Idaho K-12 Literacy	Teaching Credential
2018-2021	International Baccalaureate Training *Making the Primary Year Program Happen* *Local & Global Inquirers*	

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, this 15-hour course is required for out-of-state teachers who are seeking an Idaho license. Topics included are 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, Ririe, Idaho District & Idaho Falls District 91
  A course that satisfies the Idaho Dyslexia legislation requirement. The course focuses on identifying the characteristics of dyslexia, effective reading instruction and intervention, emphasizing the importance of structured literacy. Customized to the local agency's needs.

- Evaluate educator certification programs for the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence credentialing program.

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- Support school districts by guiding literacy curriculum adoption committees in weekly collaborative meetings and offering hands-on professional learning experiences.

- Support parents and families by providing structured literacy tutoring and help navigating the educational system.

2021-2026 Idaho Striving to Meet Achievement in Reading Together (SMART) Reading Project,
Literacy Coach

- Supported over 100 K-3 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

- 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade teacher.

- 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.

- Experience using background building curriculum: Amplify (1st-5th grade).

- 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

Statewide

2025 *Word Detectives: Morphology Division* Website Project

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District

2025	*Dyslexia at the Secondary Level*	Idaho Falls School District 91 Winter
	Structured Literacy Walk Through	Idaho Falls School District 91 Fall
2024	*You Can't Tier 2 Your Way Out of a Tier 1 Problem*	Idaho Falls School District 91 Fall

Educational Leadership

State Committee

2026 Idaho Comprehensive Literacy Plan, Writing Group
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).

Professional Organization

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

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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

Ashby, J., Ziel, J., & Ozier, M. (2026). *Coyne et al. (2025): Five lessons learned*. PEARS for Teaching Reading. https://www.pearsforteachingreading.org/other-resources#research-responses

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 suppor*t.

Professional Affiliations

The Reading League
International Dyslexia Association

References

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