

# ENHANCING READING COMPREHENSION THROUGH KNOWLEDGE BUILDING

Presented by Alison Provencher, M.S.Ed.



shahv

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this workshop, educators will explore research-backed strategies to enhance and elevate the reading comprehension skills of English Language Learners (ELLs) through background knowledge and vocabulary instruction. Understanding that vocabulary alone is insufficient for comprehension, this workshop highlights the crucial role of background knowledge - the “missing piece” of the comprehension puzzle. Participants will explore the interplay between background knowledge and vocabulary development, learning how these elements work together to unlock deeper comprehension for ELLs. Practical techniques for integrating these insights into classroom instruction will be shared, ensuring that educators can immediately apply what they’ve learned.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

Learners will be able to:

1. Explain the role of background knowledge in reading comprehension and describe why vocabulary instruction alone is insufficient for supporting ELLs.
2. Analyze the relationship between background knowledge and vocabulary development and how their integration supports deeper comprehension for ELLs across grade levels.
3. Identify research-backed instructional strategies that intentionally build background knowledge to improve reading comprehension for ELLs.
4. Apply practical classroom techniques for embedding knowledge-building and vocabulary instruction into daily literacy instruction across content areas.
5. Design or adapt lesson components that leverage background knowledge to scaffold complex texts and promote meaningful comprehension for ELLs.

## INFO

### Date

- Saturday, March 7, 2026

### Time

- 10:00 AM - 1:10 PM EST

### Location

- Zoom (Link sent via email)

### CEUs

- 0.30 CEUs (No Partial Credit)



### Alison Provencher, M.S.Ed.

Alison Provencher brings over 30 years of experience as a bilingual special education teacher, evaluator, adjunct professor, & administrator. While earning a Master of Arts degree in Teaching English as a Second Language & a Master of Science in Educational Leadership, Alison has dedicated her career to supporting culturally & linguistically diverse students with special needs or at risk for referral & addressing disproportionality in special education. As a Resource Specialist for the NYS Hudson Valley Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network (RBERN), Alison provides professional development & technical assistance to schools & districts from Southern Westchester County to the Catskills. She also teaches graduate-level courses on Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. Focused on promoting research-based practices & policies that foster equity, inclusivity, & high-quality instruction, she strives to provide strategies to improve outcomes for English Language Learners & ensure compliance with state regulations.

# COURSE AGENDA

<b>9:50-10:00</b>	Registration/Virtual Platform Login Support
<b>10:00-10:15</b>	Intro to Presenter, Objectives, Activities, & Financial Disclosures
<b>10:15-10:45</b>	Introduction to Second Language Acquisition
<b>10:45-11:00</b>	What Is Reading Comprehension?
<b>11:00-11:20</b>	How Is Teaching Reading Different for English Learners?
<b>11:20-11:30</b>	BREAK
<b>11:30-12:00</b>	Background Knowledge: Why & How?
<b>12:00-12:30</b>	Vocabulary Instruction: Why & How?
<b>12:30-1:00</b>	Before/During/After Reading Comprehension Strategies
<b>1:00-1:10</b>	Closing Remarks, Question & Answer

## Financial Disclosures

*Financial:* Alison Provencher has reported financial relationships with Middletown Teachers Center and Rockland BOCES (consulting).

*Non-financial:* Alison Provencher did not report any non-financial disclosures.

## Course Completion

In order to satisfactorily complete this course, participants must remain in attendance on Zoom for the entire course. No partial credit will be provided. Participants must also complete all Google Forms provided throughout the course.

## Cancellation Policy

SHAHV will make every reasonable attempt to make timely notifications of canceled or postponed events. If an event is postponed and the individual cannot attend the make-up date, a refund will be given. If SHAHV cancels an event, the individuals will receive a full refund. If the participant cancels their registration within 5 business days of the event, a partial refund will be given. No refunds will be awarded after the scheduled event for those individuals who did not attend and who provided no prior notification. Refunds requested will be processed within 10 business days of the written request.

## REGISTRATION

**\$60 Members registered on or before 2/21/26**

**\$80 Members registered after 2/21/26**

**\$30 Students (please provide a copy of ID)**

**\$100 Nonmembers**

### How to Register:

- 1. Register online at [SHAHV.org](http://SHAHV.org)! (Preferred option)**
- 2. If you are unable to register online, please fill out the conference registration form found on the next page.**

Not a Member? If you would like to become a member please visit our website to sign up! As a member, all other conferences attended for the next 12 months from the date of registration will automatically display the membership rate on the SHAHV website.  
Member of another NYS Regional Association? Members of NYS regional Speech-Language-Hearing Associations are eligible for the member rates. Make sure you register as a "NYS Regional Member"!

For **accommodations** and other policies please visit our website [SHAHV.org/about](http://SHAHV.org/about)



**ASHA CE**  
**APPROVED PROVIDER**

Speech-Language-Hearing  
Association of the Hudson Valley

Intermediate Level  
0.3 ASHA CEUs

Meets CTLE requirements if documented with the ASHA CE Registry.

# SHAHV CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

If you are unable to register online, please fill out the conference registration form below and mail it with a check to:

SHAHV % Lauryn Forde  
P.O. Box 248  
Gardiner, NY 12525

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## SHAHV CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Enhancing Reading Comprehension through  
Knowledge Building

Presented by: Alison Provencher, M.S.Ed.

Date: Saturday, March 7, 2026

NAME\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER\_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS\_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED\_\_\_\_\_

CHECK NUMBER\_\_\_\_\_