



# The Preschool Child: Early Speech and Language Challenges – A Connection to Literacy

NJCLD Fall Symposium  
September 14, 2020

## Logistics



Please remain muted throughout the presentation.



Submit questions using the provided link.



Provide us with feedback.

<https://tinyurl.com/NJCLD2020Questions>



## Meet our Speakers



**Sondra Mims, M.A.,  
CCC SLP**

Chief Academic Officer of the Atlanta Speech School and ASHA certified speech-language pathologist



**Froma Roth, Ph.D.**

Professor Emeritus, University of Maryland, ASHA Honors, and ASHA certified speech-language pathologist



**Jeff Regan, M.A.**

Director of Government Affairs and Public Policy, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association



**Elsa Cardenas-Hagen,  
Ed.D. (Moderator)**

Chair, National Joint Committee on Learning Disabilities

<https://tinyurl.com/NJCLD2020Questions>

**NJCLD**  
National Joint Committee on  
Learning Disabilities

## RESEARCH

<https://tinyurl.com/NJCLD2020Questions>

**NJCLD**  
National Joint Committee on  
Learning Disabilities

## Early Oral Language Indicators of Literacy: What does the Research say?

*Froma P. Roth, PhD, CCC-SLP  
Member, NJCLD*

- Oral language = ability to understand & express spoken language.
- Literacy = ability to read and write.
- These domains are CONNECTED.

NJCLD Symposium, Fall, 2020, Rockville, MD

<https://tinyurl.com/NJCLD2020Questions>

**NJCLD**  
National Joint Committee on  
Learning Disabilities

## BIG IDEAS

- Literacy has its roots in oral language  
(*Necessary precondition* for learning to read & write)
- Reciprocal Relationship:  $L \rightarrow R \rightarrow L \rightarrow R \dots$
- Children acquire oral language naturally, with no instruction;  
Reading (and writing) is learned; it has to be taught
- Children must hear & interact with others who use same language

<https://tinyurl.com/NJCLD2020Questions>

**NJCLD**  
National Joint Committee on  
Learning Disabilities

## Preschool Language Predictors of Literacy Learning

Two critical language areas:

- Phonological awareness
- Vocabulary

<https://tinyurl.com/NJCLD2020Questions>

**NJCLD**  
National Joint Committee on  
Learning Disabilities

### Context: Which Preschool Children Are At Risk?

- ☐ Discharged from SLP services at end of pre-K
- ☐ Recommended for beginning/continuing SLP services in K
- ☐ Have risk factors other than oral language
- ☐ Exhibit no known risk factors
- ☐ Do not attend Pre-K

<https://tinyurl.com/NJCLD2020Questions>

**NJCLD**  
National Joint Committee on  
Learning Disabilities

# PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS

Oral language skills that require the ability to manipulate the sound system of language.

<https://tinyurl.com/NJCLD2020Questions>

**NJCLD**  
National Joint Committee on  
Learning Disabilities

# VOCABULARY

Words and phrases that make up the meaning in messages.

<https://tinyurl.com/NJCLD2020Questions>

**NJCLD**  
National Joint Committee on  
Learning Disabilities

## Some Take-Aways

➤ The long view- Pre-k & K status are not end points:

- Early predicts early
- Early predicts early and later
- Early predicts later

➤ Transition points:

- Learning demands change; expectations increase
- Children hit BUMPS; difficulties ↑; new issues arise

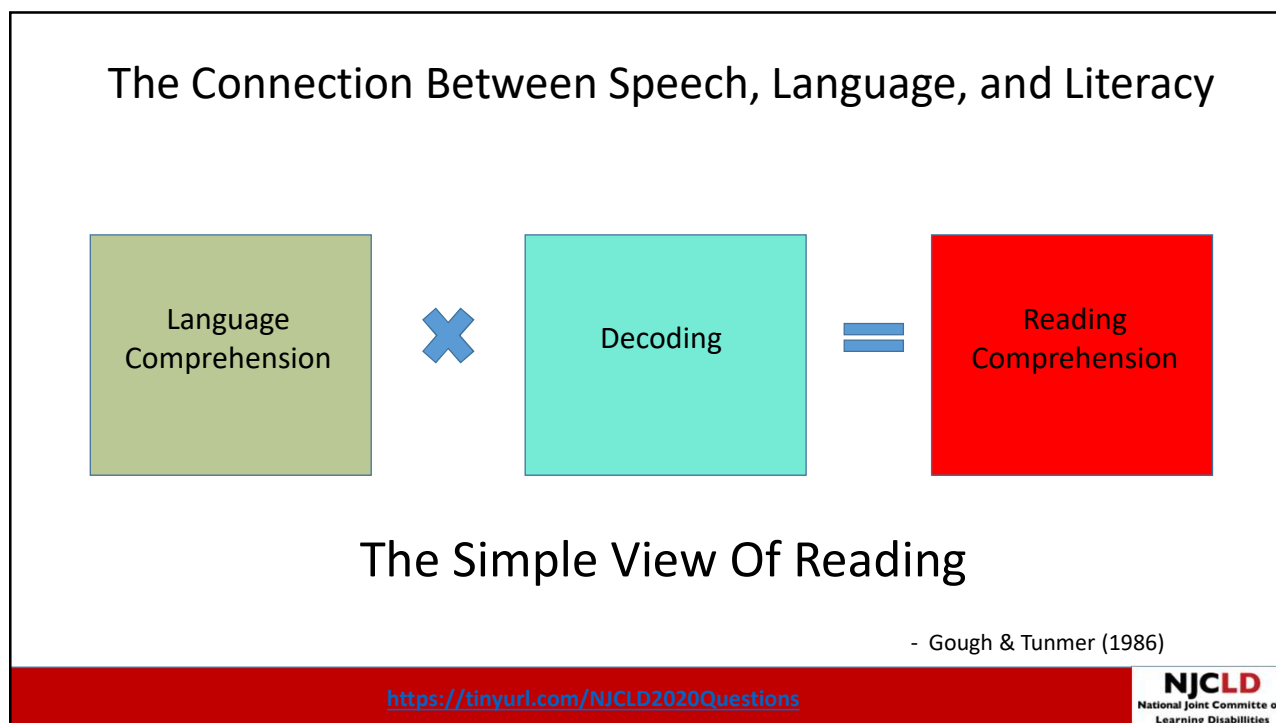
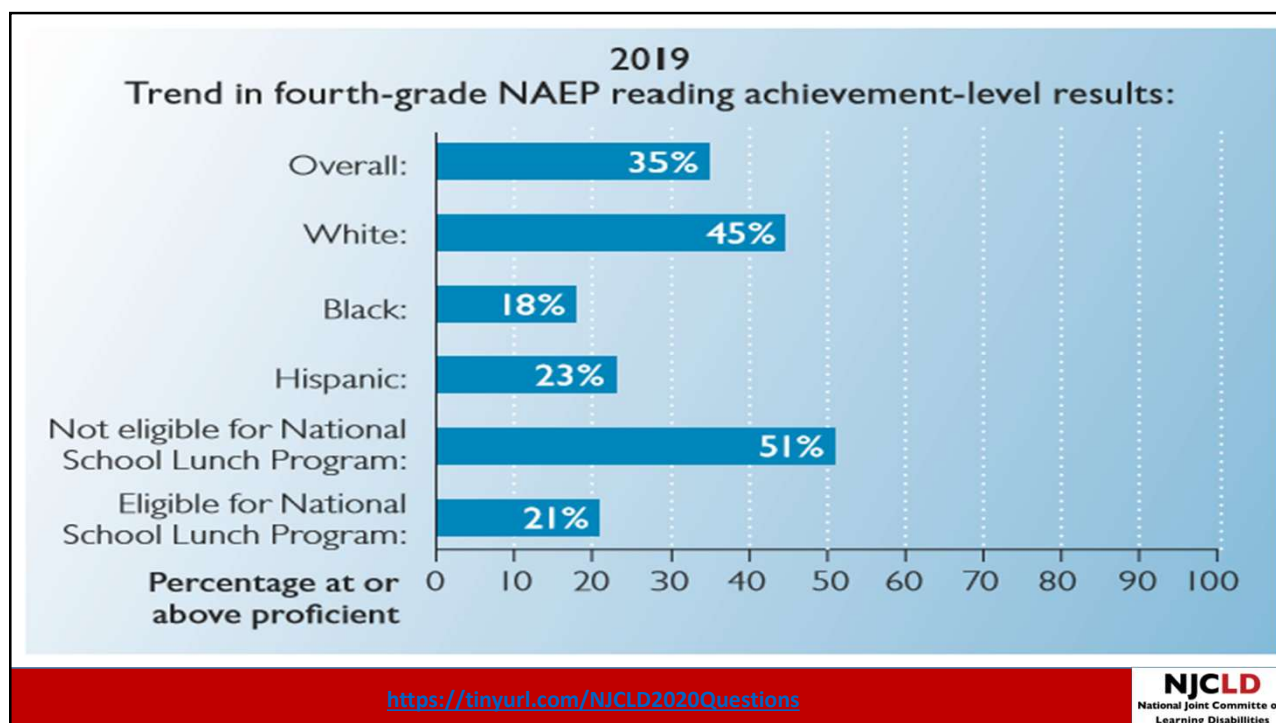
<https://tinyurl.com/NJCLD2020Questions>

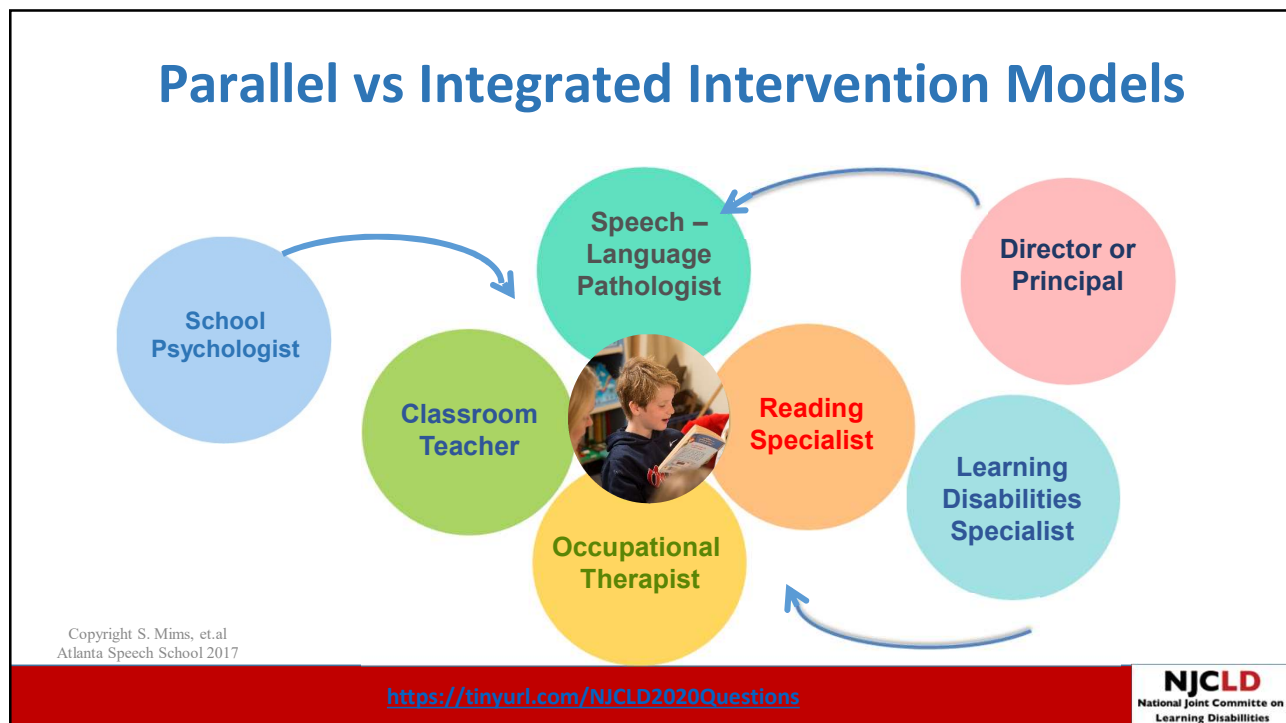
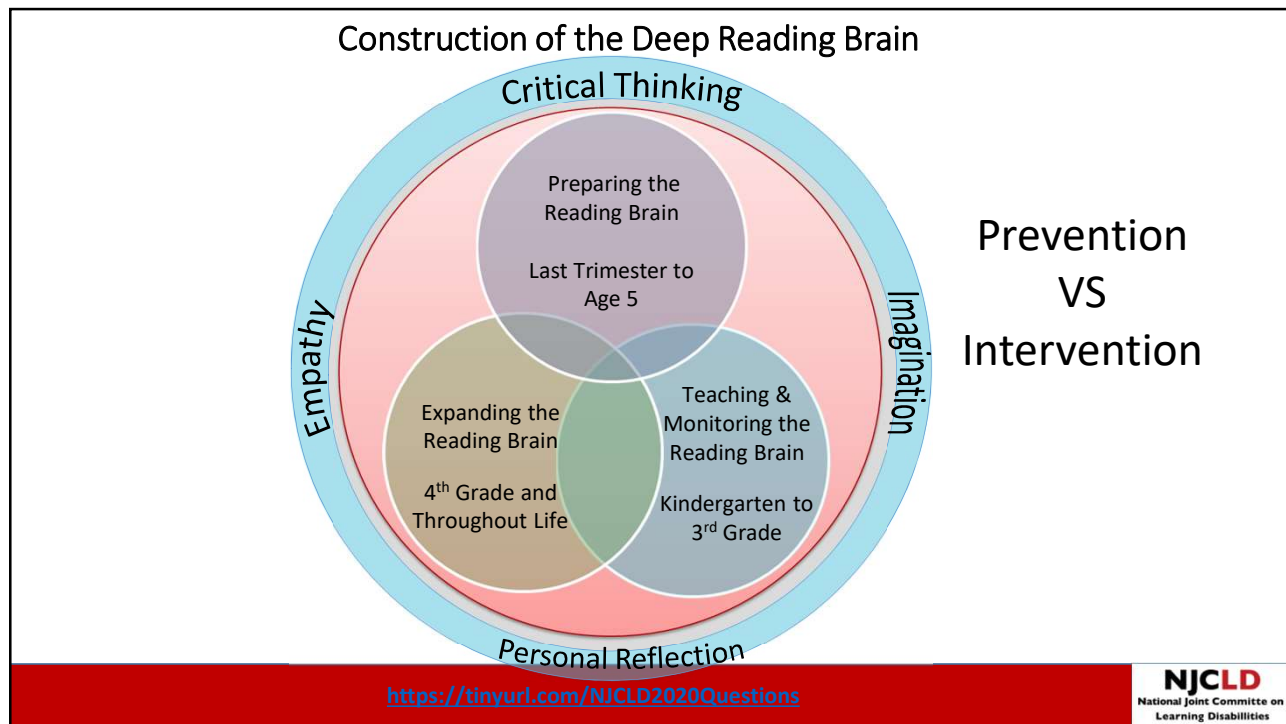
**NJCLD**  
National Joint Committee on  
Learning Disabilities

# PRACTICE

<https://tinyurl.com/NJCLD2020Questions>

**NJCLD**  
National Joint Committee on  
Learning Disabilities







# POLICY

<https://tinyurl.com/NJCLD2020Questions>

**NJCLD**  
National Joint Committee on  
Learning Disabilities

## Agenda

- Current Legislation and 2020 Legislative Forecast
- Recent Regulatory Activities
- 2021 Potential Actions
- Current Considerations on Racial Disparities

<https://tinyurl.com/NJCLD2020Questions>

**NJCLD**  
National Joint Committee on  
Learning Disabilities

## Current Legislation

### • Funding Legislation

- S. 4112: The Coronavirus Child Care and Education Relief Act
- H.R. 7027: The Child Care Is Essential Act
- H.R. 7327: The Child Care for Economic Recovery Act

### • Workforce Legislation

- H.R. 1488/S. 605: Child Care Workforce and Facilities Act of 2019
- H.R. 3139/S. 1866: The Supporting the Teaching profession through Revitalizing Investments in Valuable Educators (STRIVE) Act
- H.R. 5475/S. 3168: Preparing and Resourcing Our Student Parents and Early Childhood Teachers (PROSPECT) Act
- H.R. 7635/S. 3445: Legislation establishing grants to develop, administer, and evaluate early childhood education apprenticeships

<https://tinyurl.com/NJCLD2020Questions>

**NJCLD**  
National Joint Committee on  
Learning Disabilities

## 2020 Legislative Forecast



### Appropriations

- H.R. 7614 –Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies
- Points of controversy include \$16.6 billion for Title I funding for low-income districts and \$400 million to the Charter School Program

### Outlook

- Passed House as part of a 6-bill “minibus” funding package on July 31, 2020
- No action yet in the Senate
- **Deadline: September 30, 2020**
- Continuing Resolution possible through end of 2020



### Preparing schools for coronavirus

- House passed the HEROES Act in May which would give \$100 billion for education
- Senate GOP’s HEALS Act would give \$105 billion with most funding contingent on schools reopening
- Current administration is directing all schools to reopen and has proposed linking reopening to federal funding

### Outlook

- Negotiations began between the White House and Congressional Democrats
- Election season is significantly impacting progress to a fifth coronavirus response package
- Schools have already started to reopen across the country to mixed results

<https://tinyurl.com/NJCLD2020Questions>

**NJCLD**  
National Joint Committee on  
Learning Disabilities

## Recent Regulatory Activities

- **Data collection under IDEA Part C**
  - children receiving early intervention services; infants and toddlers exiting services; program settings
  - new data codes and collection on contextual variables necessary to account for COVID-19 pandemic
    - changes in assessment tools/methods
    - continuation of EI services for children after turning 3 years old
    - costs of technology (e.g., devices, internet access), personal protective equipment (PPE)
    - family access to technology and participation in virtual services;
    - personnel shortages
    - reason(s) family declined/paused services or changed individualized family service plan (IFSP)
    - start/end dates for pauses in referrals, evaluations, and/or methods for eligibility determination
    - start/end dates for virtual and in-person services
- **Dispute resolution process under IDEA Part C**

<https://tinyurl.com/NJCLD2020Questions>

**NJCLD**  
National Joint Committee on  
Learning Disabilities

## 2021 Potential Actions

- Providing universal free pre-K
- Increasing school choice programs (vouchers, ESAs)
- Converting funding to block grants for states
- Funding infrastructure improvements for schools
- Increasing Title I funding
- Reauthorizing IDEA
- Amount of federal regulation

<https://tinyurl.com/NJCLD2020Questions>

**NJCLD**  
National Joint Committee on  
Learning Disabilities

# Current Considerations on Racial Disparities

**Goal:** Identify and achieve advocacy objectives that meaningfully address disparities in health care and education

Identified goals of relevance for NJCLD to consider:

- advocacy concerning the **erosion of data collection** standards for race, ethnicity, sex, primary language, and disability status
- advocacy to improve **data collections** activities as required in IDEA and make data-driven decisions improve educational outcomes of students of color
- advocacy to emphasize **diversity training** as a priority area in State Personnel Development Grants
- advocacy/member education on **appropriate assessments and determination of services**, including a focus on the “school to prison” pipeline
- advocacy for **full funding** under IDEA, including Part B, Section 619, and Part C for early intervention

Adapted from ASHA's  
Response to Racism (2020)

<https://tinyurl.com/NJCLD2020Questions>

**NJCLD**  
National Joint Committee on  
Learning Disabilities

# Q & A

<https://tinyurl.com/NJCLD2020Questions>

**NJCLD**  
National Joint Committee on  
Learning Disabilities

# Thank you!

## Evaluation and Feedback

<https://tinyurl.com/NJCLD2020>

