

Stratenotes

The University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning

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Featured Article: A Crosswalk: Structured Literacy and Strategic Instruction Model (SIM™) Instructional Tools and Interventions-Collaboratively Designed with SIM Professional Developers

The University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning (KUCRL) is pleased to share a new crosswalk designed to help educators better understand the relationship between Structured Literacy and the Strategic Instruction Model (SIM™). This resource highlights how selected SIM instructional tools and interventions can support the delivery of structured literacy elements and practices for adolescent learners. Structured Literacy, endorsed by the International Dyslexia Association and grounded in the Science of Reading, emphasizes explicit, systematic instruction across foundational and advanced language skills. SIM complements this approach by offering research-validated strategies and routines that help students access content, strengthen literacy processes, and engage in higher-level thinking. By comparing the elements and teaching practices of Structured Literacy with those embedded in SIM, this crosswalk illustrates how the two approaches intersect to support effective, efficient literacy instruction. Ultimately, the resource showcases how SIM provides both the “what” and the “how” teachers need to put structured literacy into action in classrooms.



Read the crosswalk

[Click here for a PD activity to accompany the new crosswalk](#) (ppt)

SIM News

Project iSTAR is recruiting secondary writing teachers to partner with us in shaping the future of writing instruction for adolescents with disabilities. **Fill out this form if you're interested.** Participating teachers will receive an honorarium for their time and expertise.

Who We're Looking For:

- 3 or more schools willing to participate
- 3–5 teachers per school
- Teachers in grades 6–9 who teach writing
- Each teacher must have at least 3 students with IEPs

The iSTAR platform will include:

- Multiple SIM Writing Interventions: Sentence Writing Strategy, Paragraph Writing Strategy, Writing with a Purpose Routine (new)
- A Student Interest Inventory that generates personalized writing prompts
- Automated writing feedback and scoring
- Teacher, Student, and Family dashboards for progress monitoring and communications
- Opportunities for teachers to test features and offer feedback to improve the user experience

Projected Impact - by participating, teachers contribute to a long-term effort to:

- Improve ASWD performance on local writing assessments
- Strengthen family–school engagement in writing development
- Expand access to high-quality, adaptive writing instruction nationwide
- Support sustainability through SIM professional development and micro-credentialing.

New SIM Canvas Courses!

- **Understanding Academic Language Strategy** on Canvas
- **Concept Comparison Routine** on Canvas

Season 3, Episode 4 of Co-Teachers in Classrooms Getting Coffee ☕ **talks with KUCRL Co-Director, Dr. Jocelyn Washburn,** to explore her personal experience with co-teaching and how High-Leverage Practices (HLPs) transform real classrooms.



Reminders and Support:

Are you planning ahead for a 2026-27 Reading Intervention? Let us know how we can support you with Xtreme Reading. Together we can help students thrive!

Looking for a 2026-27 Reading Intervention?

Are you planning ahead for a middle or high school reading intervention?

KU CRL's *Xtreme Reading* program is research-backed, classroom-tested, and proven effective.

Let's help students thrive!

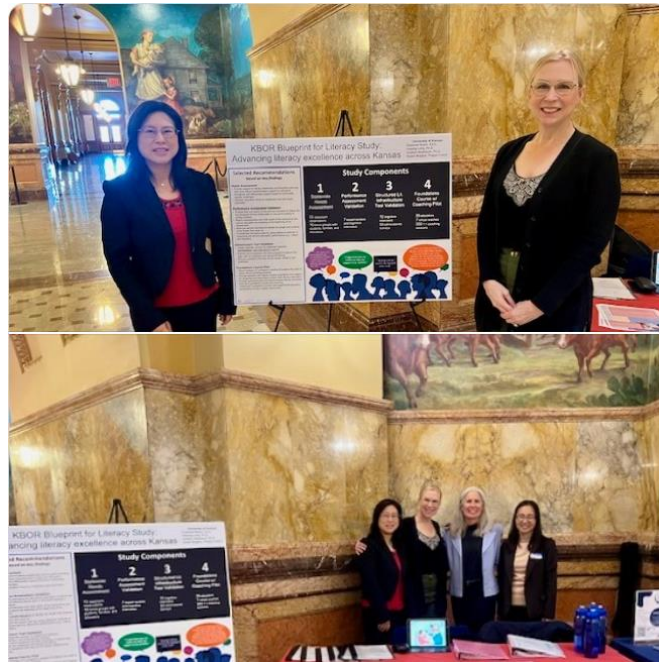
sim.ku.edu

SIM in the Field

- Thank you to presenter, Karen Staley, and everyone who joined the **SLANT Webinar on Jan. 28th!**

**SLANT:
A Starter Strategy for Class Participation**

- KU CRL Co-Director, Dr. Suzy Myers and Dr. Haiying Long ([University of Kansas School of Education & Human Sciences](#)) spent the day at the Kansas Capitol sharing new research on the state of literacy in Kansas for Literacy Day at the Capitol.



They joined School of Education representatives in supporting funding for the [Kansas Blueprint for Literacy](#). The event was organized by the Kansas Board of Regents.

- CRL Staff enjoyed their time at the [Life Span Institute](#) Collaboratory in January. It was a nice event to collaborate on shared research interests and communication.



Recent Publications by KU CRL Staff and SIM Network Members:

- You can now find the following *Fusion Reading* article, *The Effects of a Comprehensive and Supplemental Middle School Reading Program*, for free on KU Scholarworks.
- Goldman SR, **Smith SJ** and Carreon A. (2025) Special education teachers' use of AI to support students with disabilities in writing. *Front. Educ.* 10:1710974. <https://doi.org/10.3389/feduc.2025.1710974>

More Resources and Media Picks:

- The most recent *Sold a Story* podcast from APM Reports, *Emily Hanford LIVE from Planet Word with Reid Lyon and Margaret Goldberg*, is really good and worth a listen or read.
- Check out all of the *Featured News* from our Parent Organization, KU Life Span Institute. There is some great research happening to improve lives!
- An interesting read from NPR as the question of AI in schools continues to evolve: *To keep AI out of her classroom, this high school English teacher went analog.*

Events for SIM Professional Developers and Specialists:

- **2026 Winter SIM Update Conference**, Feb. 16- Mar. 19

- **2026 Content Literacy Leadership Institute (CLLI)**

If you know anyone who's interested in becoming a Strategic Instruction Model (SIM™) Professional Developer, our CLLI runs June-October, offering hands on learning, collaboration, and leadership development. Registration intent due by March 1.

- **SIM Virtual Update Conference, Fall 2026:** This will be both a synchronous and asynchronous virtual event. More details coming soon.

Elevate your expertise and become a Strategic Instruction Model (SIM™) Professional Developer

Our Content Literacy Leadership Institute runs June-October, offering hands on learning, collaboration, and leadership development. Register by March 1 to secure your spot

sim.ku.edu/CLLI

SIM Resources:

- [SLANT \(2nd Edition\) Manual](#) - FREE
 - [Teaching Content to All Manual](#) - FREE
 - [Professional Learning Micro-credentials](#) for teachers - FREE
 - **NEW SIM CROSSWALKS:**
 - [SIM & Structured Literacy](#) AND
 - [SIM & Universal Design for Learning](#)
 - [2025 SIM One-Page Flyer](#)
 - [Handout with quick links to SIM resources](#) (crosswalks and websites)
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SIM Courses for Educators:

Supporting Adolescent Literacy for Successful School Change



The flyer for the course "Supporting Adolescent Literacy for Successful School Change" features a green header with the title. Below the title, it states "A SIX-PART BLENDED LEARNING COURSE DESIGNED TO SUPPORT SCHOOL TEAMS". The flyer includes sections for "The Innovation" (Strategic Instruction Model), "The Participants" (listing roles like District Curriculum Directors and School Administrators), "The Course Experience" (describing synchronous virtual group sessions and asynchronous study assignments), and "The Course Content" (listing six units). It also includes a "SCHEDULE" section (8 consecutive weeks, 90-minute virtual synchronous meetings) and a "LEARN MORE" section with a registration link and a QR code. The KU Center for Research on Learning logo and the SIM Strategic Instruction Model logo are also present.

Is your school team looking for a course in adolescent literacy to dramatically impact teacher and student performance? We have a course for that!

Our online learning course, Supporting Adolescent Literacy for Successful School Change, is a six-part course designed to support school teams in implementing a systematic approach to adolescent literacy using evidence-based learning tools. Follow the link above for more information and to register today!

Coming Soon - Course First! - this course will include the Course Organizer Routine, Unit Organizer Routine, concept Mastery Routine, and Framing Routine

LEARN NEW SKILLS with SIM Online Classes:

- Content Enhancement Routines:
 - **NEW Dec. 2025 - Concept Comparison Routine**
 - **Concept Mastery Routine**
 - **Cross-Curricular Argumentation Routine**
 - **Framing Routine**
 - **Unit Organizer Routine**
- Learning Strategies
 - **Fundamentals of Paraphrasing and Summarizing Strategy**
 - **The Inference Strategy**

- [The Paragraph Writing Strategy](#)
 - [Possible Selves Strategy \(1st or 2nd edition\)](#)
 - [Sentence Writing Strategies \(Fundamentals and Proficiency\)](#)
 - **NEW Dec. 2025** - [Understanding Academic Language](#)
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