

Lighting the Way for Literacy: Translating System Improvement into Sustainable Classroom Change

How can system-level improvement translate into meaningful, sustainable classroom change while genuinely honouring teacher voice?

This one-hour workshop aligns with ALEA 2026's theme, *Lighting the Way for Literacy*, by sharing a system-level improvement story drawn from leading a Targeted Improvement Program (TIP) in Spelling. Grounded in evidence-informed improvement and Literacy practices, the session illustrates how Literacy improvement can move beyond isolated or short-term initiatives to create the conditions for coherent, sustained change, where teacher expertise and voice remain central.

To being developing an improvement roadmap, participants are guided through a process of analysing their current context and current state before intentionally planning for improvement. The workshop is anchored in three interconnected pillars: strengthening Pedagogical Content Knowledge (PCK), building data literacy, and leveraging effective improvement and implementation practices as a leader.

Participants will examine their context, considering their school goals, attitudes and beliefs and existing practices to surface strengths and areas of opportunities. From this analysis, they will engage in a practical Plan–Sprint–Review cycle to identify a precise, manageable focus for improvement. The session demonstrates how intentional planning, short implementation sprints, and structured review points create momentum while maintaining clarity, alignment, and professional agency.

Designed for leaders and teachers seeking sustainable literacy improvement, this workshop offers a replicable, context-responsive process adaptable across diverse school settings. Participants will leave with a practical roadmap that strengthens professional capability, values collective expertise, and supports improvement that is both scalable and grounded in classrooms. Lighting the way through intentional design, supportive improvement cycles, and shared professional voice.