

ANDREA FOREHAND

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EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

I have served and worked with the Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI) for the past four years as a Regional Literacy Specialist. My work with the ARI has allowed me to support reading specialists, teachers, administrators, and aspiring teachers at both Auburn University and Troy University. This work has highlighted the critical importance of teachers having access to the latest literacy research and deep training in literacy acquisition. I am committed to being an integral part of that training and look forward to advancing literacy research to further equip our teachers upon entering the field of education.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

Increase literacy proficiency among students in kindergarten through third grade in full support schools by enhancing teachers' pedagogical expertise in evidence-based literacy instruction and their ability to integrate developmentally appropriate educational technology that enhances literacy acquisition.

EDUCATION

Instructional Leadership Certification

University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL
2023

Master of Education

Special Education
University of West Alabama, Livingston, AL
2015

Bachelor of Science

Elementary Education
Troy University, Dothan, AL
2010

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

Class A Instructional Leader, P-12
Class A Dyslexia Therapist Endorsement, Elementary-Secondary
Class A Collaborative Special Education, K-6

CERTIFICATIONS

Certified Academic Language Therapist (CALT) (2022-Present)

Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS)-Administrators (2023)

Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS)- Early Childhood (2022)

Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS)-Elementary (2021)

EXPERIENCE

Alabama State Department of Education

Alabama Reading Initiative: Regional Literacy Specialist

July 1, 2021-Present

- Planning and Collaboration
 - Collaborate with ARI State Staff and regional teams to analyze and implement literacy initiatives.
 - Partner with educational initiatives such as Office of School Improvement and English Learner Education to ensure a cohesive approach to school support.
- Alabama Literacy Act Implementation
 - Collaborate with Local Reading Specialists, administrators, and teachers to carry out literacy initiatives at each school.
 - Align efforts with the Alabama Course of Study: English Language Arts 2021.
- School Visits & Student Progress Monitoring
 - Assess reading progress and adjust instruction based on literacy data.
 - Visit Full Support schools (1) weekly, Limited Support 1 schools monthly (6).
- Support for Local Reading Specialists (LRSs)
 - Ensure LRSs achieve literacy outcomes by reviewing LRS Results Based Coaching Tools.
 - Provide ongoing professional development to ensure LRSs are current on literacy research and teaching practices.
- Professional Development & Training
 - Train LRSs, administrators, teachers, and pre-service teachers.
 - Use current data and literacy research to develop professional development plans for the school year.
- Coaching and Literacy Development
 - Deliver Coaching Community PD modules 4xs per year.
 - Coordinate Coaching Labs at selected schools.
- Communication
 - Sustain an open line of communication with all state, district, and school stakeholders.
 - Maintain an up-to-date calendar of school visits and professional development sessions.

- Create and monitor evidence-based action plans for each school supported.
- Meet monthly with state staff and regional team to problem solve obstacles faced in the field.

Hidden Lake Primary School
Local Reading Specialist
December 2018-June 2021

- Supported K-3 teachers in the implementation of researched based literacy practices.
- Disaggregated assessment data to guide literacy instruction.
- Monitored student achievement and the effectiveness of literacy instruction.
- Provided dyslexia screening and Take Flight intervention (CALT level intervention).
- Created and facilitated professional development.
- Supported teachers in developing student reading improvement plans (SRIP) in accordance with the Alabama Literacy Act.
- Supported the Problem-Solving Team (PST) in making decisions concerning literacy interventions.
- Served on the Building Leadership Team.
- Coordinated Read Across America events.

Hidden Lake Elementary School
2016-December 2018 1st Grade Teacher, Grade Level Chair

Hidden Lake Elementary School
2015-2016 2nd Grade Teacher

Hidden Lake Elementary School
2012-2015 1st Grade Teacher, Teacher of the Year

Hidden Lake Elementary School
2011-2012 Kindergarten Teacher

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Forehand, A. (2025). *Morphology matters* [Presentation]. Houston County Schools, Rehobeth, AL.

Forehand, A., & Rambach, L. L. (2025). *Multisensory tips & tricks: Strategies to engage & enhance student learning* [Presentation]. Troy University, Dothan, AL.

Forehand, A. (2025). *Dyslexia awareness and simulation training* [Presentation]. Dothan City Schools, Dothan, AL.

Forehand, A. (2025). *Explicit instruction and oral language: How it supports writing* [Presentation]. Jerry Lee Faine Elementary School, Dothan, AL.

- Forehand, A., & Wall, J. (2024).** *Spelling: The superpower behind every good reader* [Conference presentation]. Mega Conference, Mobile, AL.
- Forehand, A. (2024).** *Dyslexia awareness simulation* [Presentation]. Troy University, Dothan, AL.
- Forehand, A. (2023).** *Explicit, multisensory phonics lesson routine* [Presentation]. Jerry Lee Faine Elementary School, Dothan, AL.
- Forehand, A. (2023).** *What is a sound wall and why do I want one* [Presentation]. Hidden Lake Primary School, Dothan, AL.
- Forehand, A. (2023).** *Implementing the 2021 ELA course of study* [Presentation]. Girard Elementary School, Dothan, AL.
- Forehand, A. (2023).** *The science of reading/aligning assessments to the ELA COS* [Presentation]. Morris Slingluff Elementary School, Dothan, AL.
- Forehand, A. (2023).** *Dyslexia awareness and simulation training* [Presentation]. Houston County Schools, Dothan, AL.
- Forehand, A. (2022).** *Discover the magic of multisensory comprehension* [Conference presentation]. Mega Conference, Mobile, AL.
- Forehand, A., Brown, S., & Fulton, L. (2022).** *Multisensory tips & tricks: Strategies to engage & enhance student learning* [Conference presentation]. Rise to the Challenge, International Dyslexia Association Alabama (IDA Alabama).
- Forehand, A. (2022).** *Help! I need multisensory tools for my toolbox* [Presentation]. Troy Regional Inservice Center, Dothan, AL.
- Forehand, A. (2022).** *Multisensory instruction* [Presentation]. Auburn University, Auburn, AL.
- Forehand, A. (2022).** *Dyslexia awareness* [Presentation]. Abbeville Elementary School, Abbeville, AL.
- Forehand, A. (2022).** *How to teach small groups* [Presentation]. Headland Elementary School, Headland, AL.
- Forehand, A. (2022).** *Structured literacy* [Presentation]. Joseph W Lisenby Primary School, Ozark, AL.
- Forehand, A. (2022).** *Implementing The Daily 5* [Presentation]. Harry N Mixon Elementary School, Ozark, AL.

Forehand, A. (2022). *The six syllable types* [Presentation]. Ashford Elementary School, Ashford, AL.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Students' Choice Outstanding Teacher

Hidden Lake Elementary School, 2015

Hidden Lake Elementary School Teacher of the Year

Hidden Lake Elementary School, 2013-2014

Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Elementary Education

Troy University, 2010

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Alabama Literacy Association (ALA), 2025-Present

ALA Houston County Council, 2025-Present

Vice President, 2025-Present

Academic Language Therapist Association (ALTA), 2022-Present

Alabama Conference of Education (ACOE), 2014-Present

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND SERVICE

Member of Bethel Baptist Church, Dothan, AL, 2019-Present

K4 Sunday School Teacher

Women's Ministry Team

Bible Study Leader

Operation Christmas Child

Upward Basketball Cheerleading Coach

Outreach

Member of Watermark Church, Ashford, AL, 2015-2019

K3 Sunday School Teacher

Wednesday Night Kids Skit Team

Trunk or Treat Community Event

Pura Vida Missions Family Outreach, Costa Rica, 2018 and 2016

Champions of Hope Cancer Survivors 5K, 2016 and 2018

Wiregrass Area Food Bank Food Drive Coordinator, 2016