

# Biliteracy and the Science of Reading

September, 2023

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DIRECTOR

# 1. Language and Literacy

2. Background

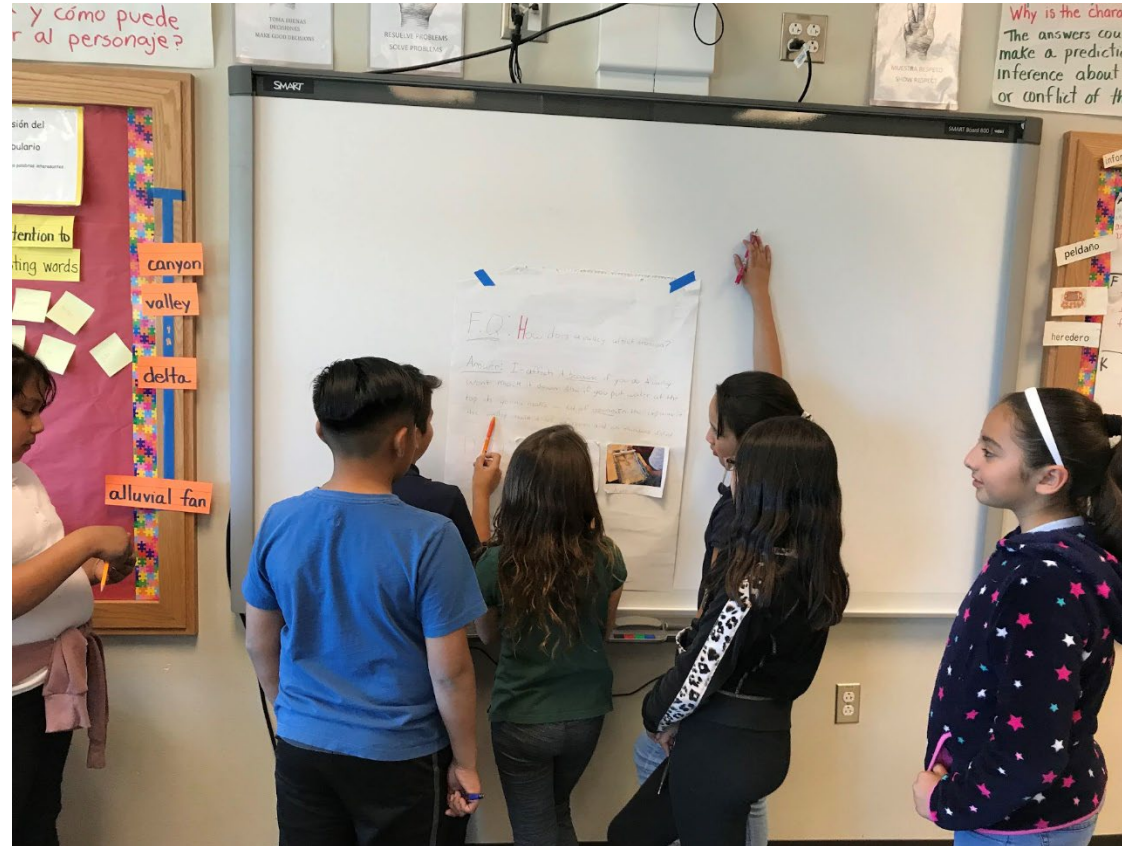
3. Legal Imperative

4. Opportunities for Progress

5. Policy Considerations



# Language and Literacy

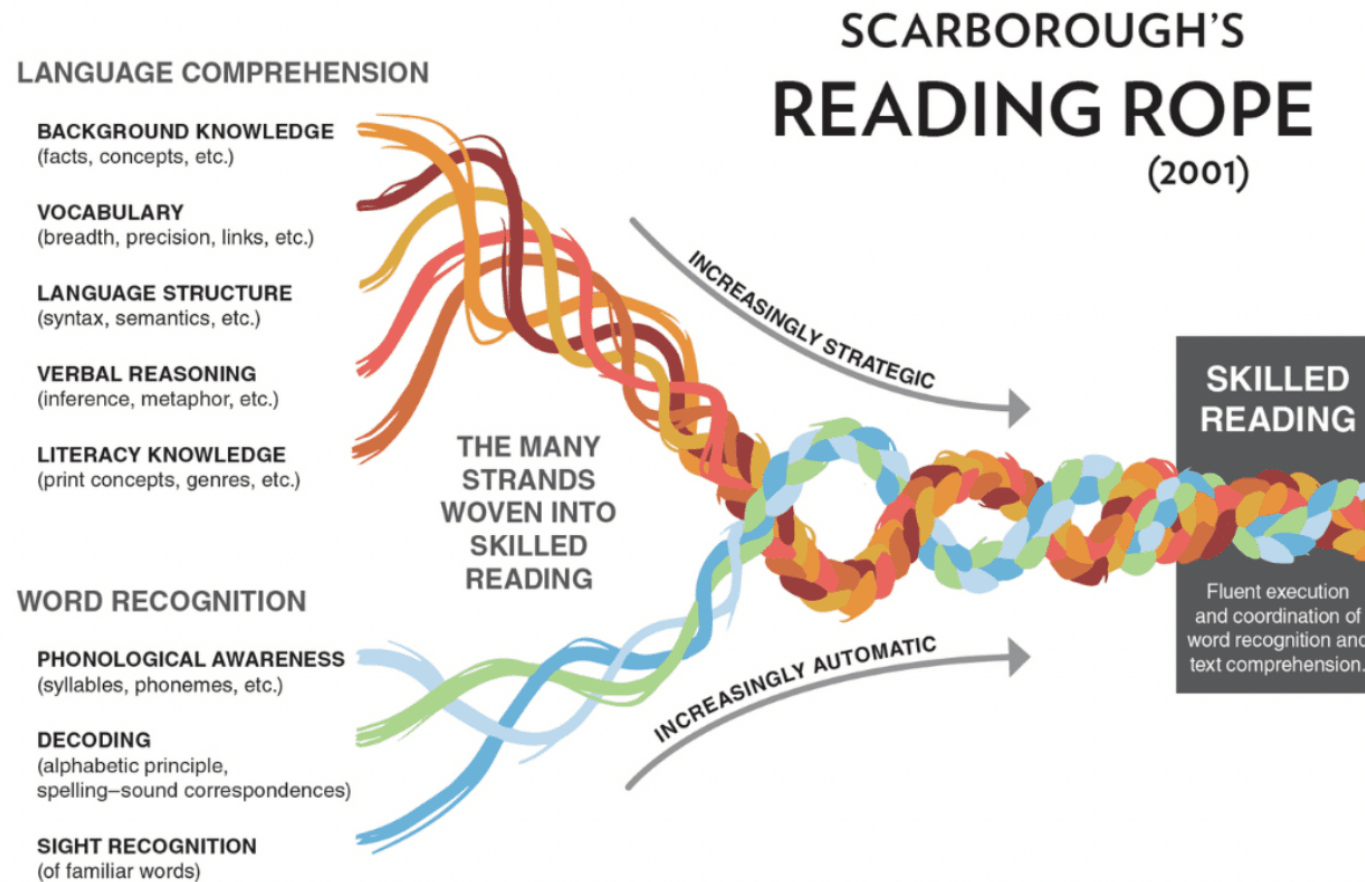




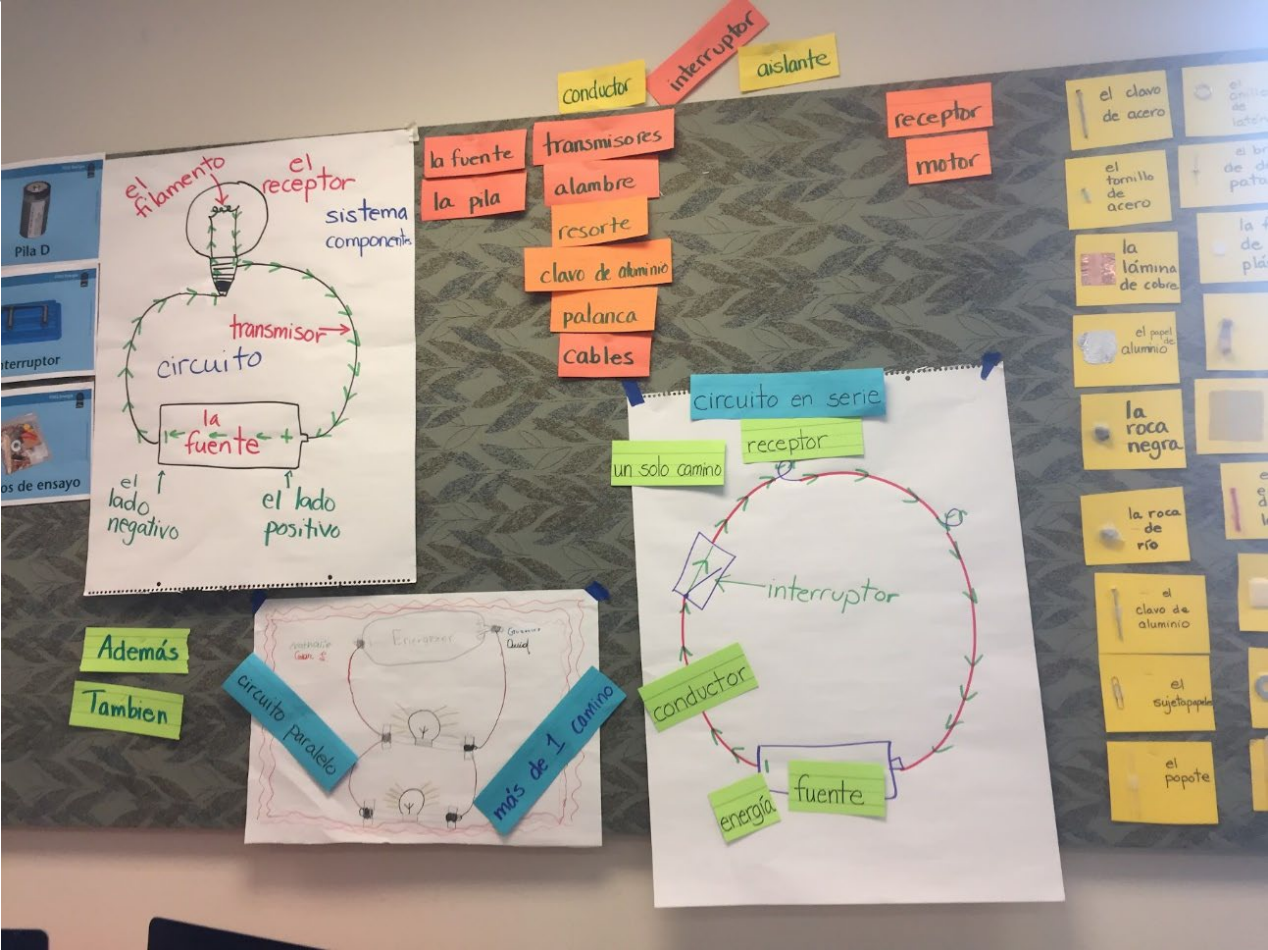
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# The Science of Reading and Structured Literacy



# Emergent Bilinguals/English Learners and Bilingual Programming





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# Federal

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- USED Office for Civil Rights  
Identification and service
- Every Student Succeeds Act
  - Title Funding  
Parent rights and assessment
  - Accountability Framework  
State progress





# State

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- Education Acts
- State Seal of Bilingualism and Biliteracy on the New Mexico Diploma of Excellence
- Native Language and Culture Certificates
- State Constitution



# The *Martinez* and *Yazzie* Lawsuit

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- In the *Martinez* and *Yazzie* consolidated lawsuit, the 1st Judicial District Court ruled the state of New Mexico violated students' fundamental rights by failing to provide a sufficient and uniform system of education as guaranteed by the state constitution
- Among other evidence, the judge pointed to:
  - Not adequately meeting the needs of English learners
  - Low proficiency rates in reading

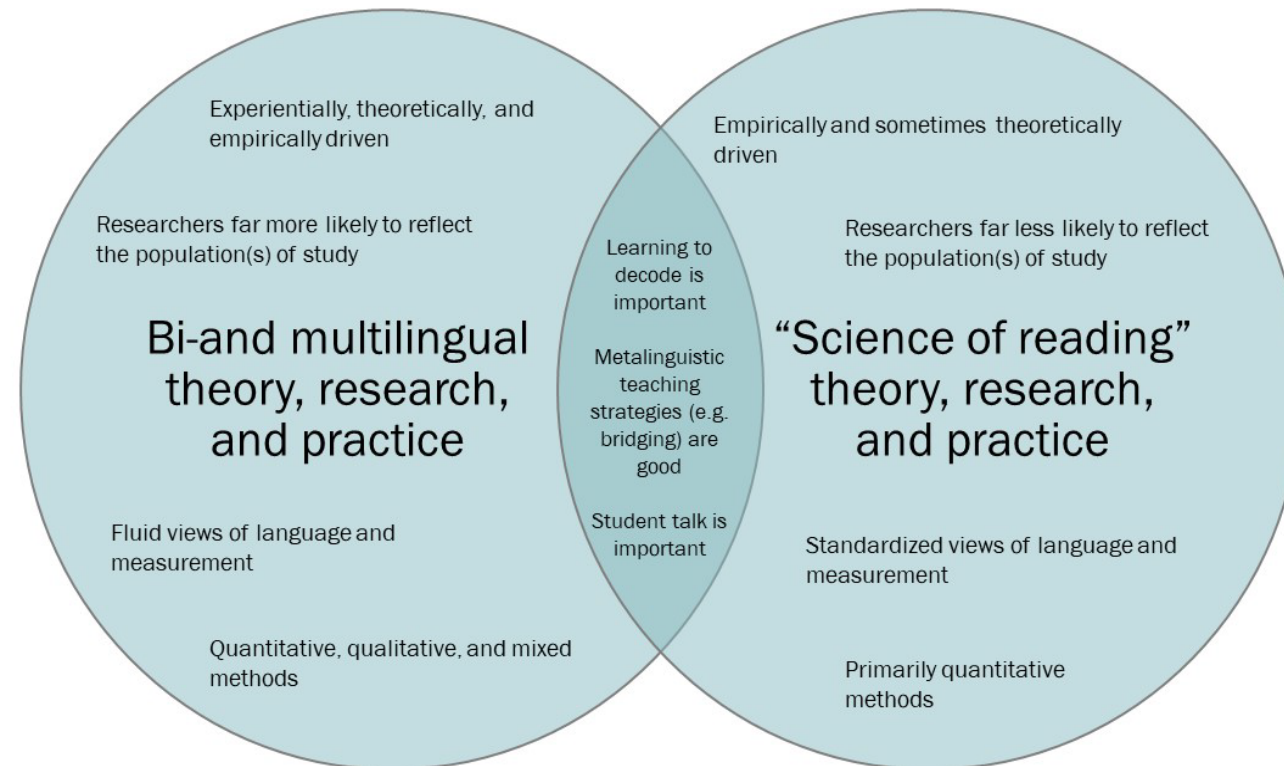
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# Building from Consensus

## Important overlaps, important distinctions



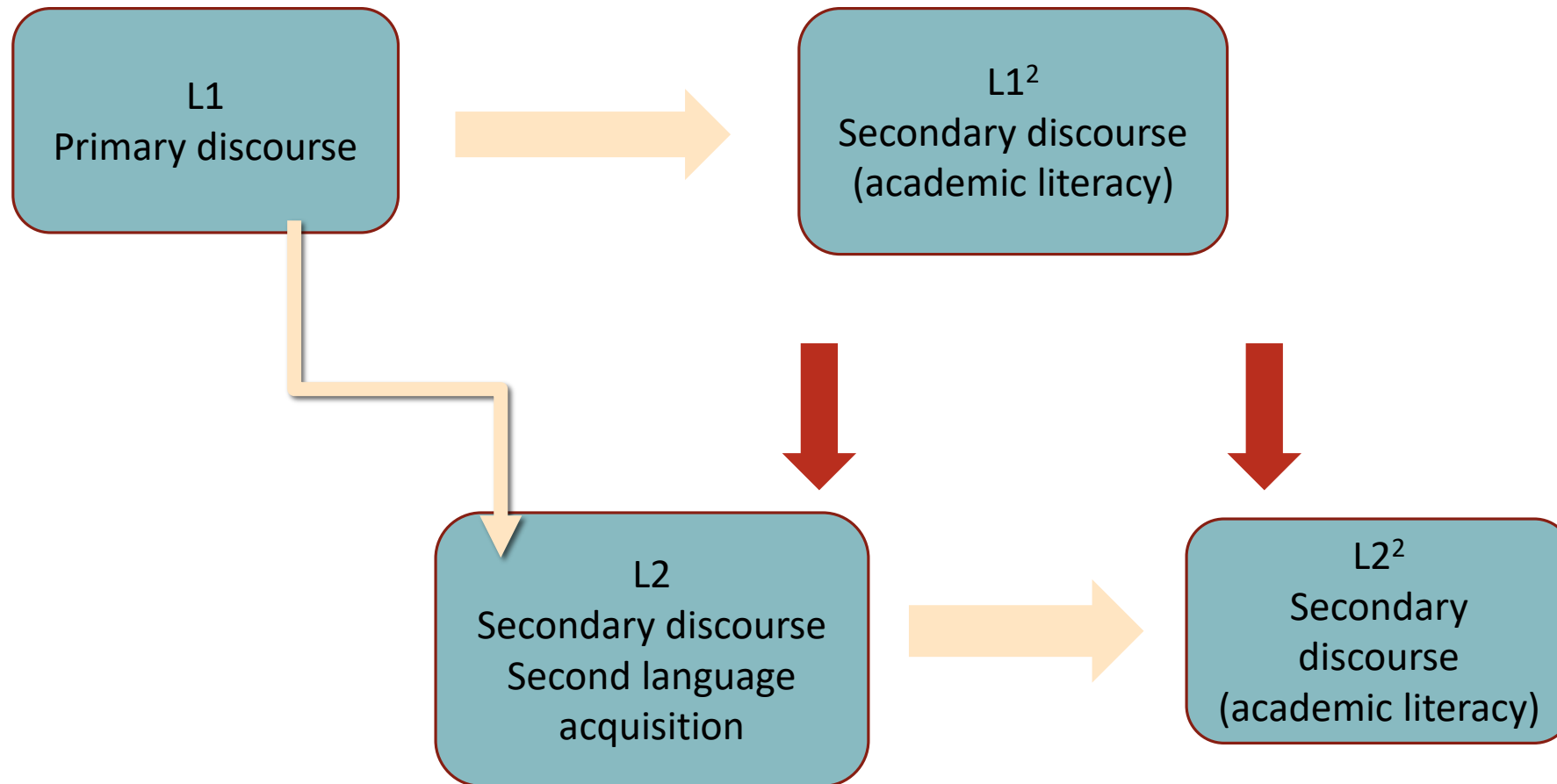
Source: Patrick Proctor, Ph.D., 2023



# Issues to Address

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- Complexity of learning secondary discourses simultaneously
- A note on Indigenous languages
- Considerations for implementation





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# Policy Considerations

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- Continue to fund and support professional learning for the science of reading and expand to include widespread, parallel professional development in biliteracy and sheltered English strategies.
- Track, and potentially fund to scale, professional learning that is being developed by the AIR following its study that focuses on writing for emergent bilinguals.
- Ensure opportunities for progress mentioned above are embedded in future programming, including focus on metalinguistic transfer, student talk, and an expansive catalogue for decoding instruction for emergent bilinguals.
- Recognize professional development is not a silver bullet and fund high quality instructional materials, proper assessments, screeners, and curriculum development for both English and other languages.
- Fund family engagement activities and outreach that support multi-generational literacy and biliteracy development towards cultivating a culture of literacy.



# Policy Considerations

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- Continue to support and require research and evaluation for the intersection of biliteracy and the science of reading, including a focus on middle and high school students and the impact of particular instructional models.
- Seek varied and intersectional experts to support a literacy institute that broadens a research agenda to support strong biliteracy education.
- Support and ask for connections among the Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) programming and that used in K-12 by PED to support a bilingual/biliterate brain.
- Support and ask for collaboration among the state's educator prep programs to embed biliteracy and the science of reading as fundamental aspects of programs of study.





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