



LITERACY™ RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

LRA Mission Statement: The Literacy Research Association is a community of scholars dedicated to promoting research that enriches the knowledge, understanding, and development of lifespan literacies in a multicultural and multilingual world. LRA is committed to ethical research that is rigorous, methodologically diverse, and socially responsible. LRA is dedicated to disseminating such research broadly so as to promote generative theories, informed practices and sound policies. Central to its mission, LRA offers mentorship and support to future generations of literacy scholars.

STRATEGIC PLAN OVERVIEW

STRANDS

**Research | Governance | Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion
Policy & Advocacy | Communications | Mentoring**

RESEARCH

LRA produces and disseminates research through our conference and publications (*Journal of Literacy Research*, *Literacy Research: Theory, Method, Practice*, and LRA's Newsletter.) The annual conference is also a major site for sharing peer-reviewed research. In the context of the conference, there are many places where research is considered: the review process for conference proposals, the presentation of research, the awards given to recognize outstanding research, and opportunities for mentoring researchers. LRA aims to promote research that is ethical, rigorous, methodologically diverse, and socially responsible.

GOVERNANCE

LRA's leadership will engage in decision-making that facilitates a relationally healthy, financially sound, and publically visible organization with the larger goal of establishing a voice in the national conversation about the role of literacy research in social change. We will accomplish this by establishing and sustaining member involvement, ethical practices, democratic decision-making, and commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION

LRA stands poised to take a proactive leadership role with respect to diversity, equity, and inclusion. We will do this by naming and rejecting injustices in our organization that cut across lines of race, language, class, sexual orientation and gender, ethnicity, religion, and ability. We will seek to include diversity and difference within our organizational structures, processes and policies (e.g. diversity of thought, perspective, people). We will do this through practices that connect diversity and inclusion to excellence, equity, and humanity. This includes the creation of organizational spaces for members to build relationships across difference with the goal of exchanging perspectives, building understanding, and creating equity.

MENTORING

LRA provides mentorship opportunities for scholars at all levels thereby creating sustained energy throughout the profession and the organization. We will accomplish this by engaging in reciprocal mentoring across experienced, mid-career, and emerging scholars.

**LRA's Strategic Plan
is intended to enrich and
support LRA's mission.**

To that end, research endeavors are a central concern within and across all aspects of the proposed plan.

POLICY & ADVOCACY

The aim of LRA's policy and advocacy work is to promote a dialogue between the literacy research community and the diverse publics that both inform and are informed by this work. As a research community we recognize the complexity of the relationship between research, policy, and practice. Part of the effort must involve making research accessible. Of particular importance is prioritizing research that examines multiple perspectives, offering systematic, research-based responses to potentially unjust policies. Another part is introducing new theoretical and empirical understandings into the public sphere, especially those from underrepresented epistemologies, and making visible to the public the implications of literacy across the lives and lifespans of individuals and communities. This effort must also involve being in communication with diverse publics (e.g. teachers, parent groups, local, state, national policy makers, media) using diverse methods and approaches.

COMMUNICATIONS

The aim of LRA's communication work is to: 1) represent and promote the organization's mission, practices, and contributions to literacy research, 2) facilitate member access to governance policies and procedures and governance updates (e.g., leadership opportunities, voting, policy changes), and 3) support member engagement in shaping emerging questions and concerns related to the organization and the broad field of literacy research, with the larger goal of establishing a voice in the national conversation about the role of literacy research in social change. We will accomplish this by establishing and maintaining a high quality digital platform, maintaining and regularly updating governance procedures, creating responsive and equitable sites for dialogue, and recruiting and insuring a broad representation of members' perspectives and concerns.