



LITERACY CLINICS

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS



UMSL's First Clinic in 1966 Photo Credit: University Archives

UMSL's Literacy Clinics have a long history of providing literacy tutorial services to members of the St. Louis region. Started in 1966 as a collaboration between the Normandy School District and the University, our Literacy Clinics have expanded to include University-based, school-based, and online sites. Our clinics are learning ecologies that focus on the preparation of future teacher leaders who will be grounded in the sciences of reading and literacy. Sponsored by the E. Des Lee Tutorial Education Initiative, our mission is to develop and implement a teaching, research and service program that provides a precollegiate tutorial education network that enhances literacy tutorial programming in the St. Louis region and beyond.

In the Community



In the Summer of 2026, UMSL's Literacy Clinic teachers provided literacy tutoring to approximately 35 students in our online and community based clinics. This included our New Leaf Literacy Summer Camp.

The E. Des Lee Tutorial education team participated in the Books and BBQ Summer Reading Event on July 12, 2026.

We co-sponsored – along with St. Louis Public Library, Turn the Page-St. Louis, and the St. Louis Education fund – a community learning forum with Dr. Maryann Wolfe called “The Deep Reading Brain in a Digital World” on September 24, 2026.

St. Louis zine maker and native bee keeper, Juan William Chávez, provided an interactive workshop to teachers, students, and families during the 2026 summer literacy camp.

Fall of 2026, we increased the number of students being tutored by aspiring or practicing teachers by adding additional literacy clinics. Approximately 70, K-5 students are receiving high intensity literacy tutoring.



Research Spotlight



As high-quality literacy tutoring grows as a national priority, the need to identify effective tutoring practices is pressing. Literacy clinics provide rich opportunities to study tutoring practices, but empirical evidence is needed to demonstrate their effectiveness in supporting student reading gains. This study examined the reading gains of 338 K-8th grade students who received literacy tutoring through university-based literacy clinics. Gains were measured in reading accuracy, words correct per minute, and comprehension. Findings indicated significant effects for all three measures across all grade levels, and for primary and intermediate grade bands. Findings have implications for effective tutoring practices that can inform other remedial contexts as well as classroom reading instruction.

**St. Louis Author
Tamia Coleman-Hawkins
visited with aspiring
teachers, K-2 students, and
their families in October of
2026.**



Upcoming Opportunities

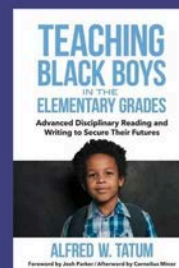
To register your child for our Literacy Clinic, please fill out the registration form:
<http://tinyurl.com/umslcoeliteracyclinic>

SCIENCES OF READING & LITERACY BOOK STUDY

We will reflect on expectations of and practices for developing the literacy skills of Black boys in the elementary school classroom through discussion of Alfred W. Tatum's *Teaching Black Boys in the Elementary Grades*.

NOVEMBER 12, 2026, 6:30-7:30 PM CST

THIS PROGRAM WILL INCLUDE A VIRTUAL VISIT FROM THE AUTHOR, ALFRED W. TATUM



Virtual Program. Register for free at slpl.org.



The first 30 registrants in the St. Louis region will get a free copy of the book mailed to them as long as they register by Oct 31.

WHO IS THIS FOR?

Teachers, teacher candidates, library professionals, tutors, authors, policymakers, and anyone who is passionate about literacy.

Each meeting will center a book focused on the sciences of reading and literacy written by an expert in the field. Through discussion, we will deepen our understanding of literacy and build community among literacy professionals. This book study is a collaborative effort between the University of Missouri-St. Louis, Turn the Page STL, St. Louis Education Fund and St. Louis Public Library.



Resources for Parents/Caregivers

Parents may be hearing about the Sciences of Reading and Literacy and wonder how they can support their child at home. The Florida Center for Reading Research includes many family friendly resources for building foundational reading and writing within your everyday family's literacy practices.

<https://fcrr.org/families>



<https://www.umsl.edu/education/research-centers/literacy/index.html>



literacyclinic@umsl.edu