



REGIONAL LITERACY WORKPLAN

2026-2027

Literacy Link South Central Regional Literacy Workplan 2026-2027

Each year, Literacy Link South Central (LLSC) facilitates **Literacy Service Planning meetings** across Elgin, Oxford, London/Middlesex, Brant, Haldimand and Norfolk Counties. These bi-monthly meetings bring together Get SET (Skills, Education, and Training) program leaders and representatives from community partners impacted by literacy and skills development to:

- discuss current trends and upcoming initiatives in the local community
- learn about programs being offered by literacy programs and other local organizations
- plan and coordinate literacy services to meet local needs

LLSC then compiled input from local service providers and community partners and used it to inform the regional Literacy Service Plans submitted to the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLITSD). The priorities outlined in this Regional Work Plan were identified through these literacy service plans and were also informed by labour market information shared in the Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie's 2026 Local Labour Market Plan "All Hands on Deck" and the 2026-2027 Local Labour Market Plan developed by the Elgin, Middlesex, Oxford Workforce Planning & Development Board.

The actions in this plan reflect forward-looking opportunities identified through that process and represent areas where regional collaboration and coordination can strengthen services for learners across the six-county region.

The views expressed in this publication are those of Literacy Link South Central and its programs, and do not necessarily reflect those of the Province of Ontario.



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About Literacy Link South Central

Literacy Link South Central (LLSC) is the regional literacy network that supports and connects adult literacy and essential skills providers across six counties in the south-central region of Ontario. LLSC works to strengthen collaboration, share resources, and support coordinated planning among service providers, employers, community partners, and government stakeholders.



Through research, regional planning, partnership development, and knowledge sharing, LLSC helps ensure that adults across the region have access to high-quality skills, education, and training opportunities that support employment, further education, and community participation.

About Get SET (Skills, Education and Training)



Get SET (Skills, Education and Training) programs – formerly known as Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) – help adults develop the foundational skills they need to succeed in employment, apprenticeship, secondary or postsecondary education, and independent living. Programs provide flexible, learner-centered instruction in areas such as reading, writing, math, digital literacy, workplace communication, and problem-solving.

Across the LLSC region, Get SET providers work with community partners and employers to support learners in building practical skills and progressing toward their employment and education goals.

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Given the current financial constraints faced by the Get SET (Skills, Education and Training) system, Literacy Link South Central has subdivided work plan action items into two categories: those that can be actioned without additional funding, and those that will require additional funding to execute fully.

Actions That Can Be Pursued Without Additional Funding

These items include coordination, communication, planning, and partnership improvements.

Outreach, Awareness, and Engagement

- Develop targeted outreach approaches for underrepresented groups (youth, newcomers, rural residents, adults with disabilities).
- Increase awareness of Get SET programming among potential learners and community partners.
- Share learner success stories and program outcomes to demonstrate impact.
- Strengthen engagement with community organizations and local employers to promote programming.

Action Item: LLSC will support programs by providing targeted promotional materials that appeal to a variety of audiences and can be customized by Get SET programs.



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Partnerships and System Coordination

- Strengthen referral pathways between Get SET, Employment Services, settlement agencies, and youth programs.
- Improve collaboration with colleges, apprenticeship stakeholders, and training providers.
- Increase coordination between Get SET programs and Skills Development Fund initiatives to support smoother learner transitions.
- Expand partnerships with libraries, community agencies, and social service providers that can support learners.

Action Item: LLSC will support programs by enhancing local literacy service planning, inviting a variety of local organizations and stakeholders, and larger provincial initiatives, to join the table as either special guests or long-term members.



Labour Market Alignment

- Use local labour market information more intentionally when designing programming.
- Expand the integration of employability skills, digital literacy, and workplace communication in training.
- Continue incorporating industry-relevant technology tools within existing programming.



Action Item: LLSC will support programs by arranging for Workforce Planning Boards to share local labour market data at Literacy Service Planning meetings. We will pursue opportunities for additional skills training resources and curricula for programs, and share funding opportunities for the purchase of technology with programs as they become available.

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Learner Progression and Navigation

- Develop clear pathway maps that show learners how upgrading connects to employment, apprenticeship, or postsecondary training.
- Create learner-facing resources explaining career and training pathways.
- Continue supporting learners through individual learning plans and goal setting.

Action Item: LLSC will support programs by expanding on its “Mapping Get SET and Apprenticeship” resource from 2025-2026 to include information about employment and postsecondary training and information for learners.



System Planning and Collaboration



- Resume in-person planning meetings where feasible to strengthen collaboration among providers.
- Improve information sharing between service providers.
- Share planning and reporting timelines across workforce planning, service plans, and provider business plans.

Action Item: LLSC will schedule 2 in-person literacy service planning meetings per region, and will discuss planning and reporting timelines with community partners to ensure efficient information sharing.

Actions That Require Additional Funding or Capacity

These items include programming expansion, staffing, technology, or major delivery changes.



Expanded Access and Delivery Options

- Expand hybrid and online learning options for learners balancing work or caregiving responsibilities.
- Increase evening or weekend programming.
- Develop short-term or modular training options for learners unable to commit to longer programs.
- Expand delivery to additional community locations or rural outreach sites.

Enhanced Learner Supports

- Expand trauma-informed program approaches and staff training.
- Increase access to wraparound supports (mental health, childcare, transportation supports).
- Expand digital access supports such as devices, connectivity, and technology training.



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Technology and Training Resources



- Invest in updated technology, equipment, and curriculum resources.
- Expand access to hands-on training tools and workplace technologies.

Capacity and Program Expansion

- Increase staffing capacity to reduce waitlists and provide more individualized instruction.
- Expand program capacity to serve more learners.
- Support the development of culturally grounded or Indigenous-led programming.



Action Item: LLSC will continue to work with the Learning Networks of Ontario to pursue an increase in core funding for front-line Get SET programs across the province.