



## Introduction

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Season's greetings, fellow educators!

I hope this December issue of [At the Forefront of Literacy](#) newsletter finds you well.

December's newsletter is the final issue exploring our 2022 theme, *Reigniting Literacy Collaborations*. In this post-pandemic era, we have also been experiencing the effects of educator collaboration loss! The purpose of this issue is to inform and inspire you, and possibly challenge your thinking and actions as you move forward with future literacy collaborations.

Join us on December 8, 2022, for our final 2022 virtual webinar. To register, see our flyer on [Collaborations with Content Area Teachers: Lessons Learned about the Role of Literacy in Science Teaching and Learning](#) or visit [Upcoming Events](#) on our homepage.

I would love to hear from you! Share your stories with us, tell us what think about the newsletter, and propose future topic topics and resources you are interested in here: [LitSymposium@ucf.edu](mailto:LitSymposium@ucf.edu).

Until we reconnect in January 2023, wishing you a joyful holiday season!

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## Research Bites: A Long Story Short

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This question guided my search: *In what ways does research inform us about the importance of educator collaborations in literacy teaching and student learning?*

I selected this cutting edge, research-based essay titled, [Leading New, Deeper Forms of Collaborative Cultures: Questions and Pathways](#) (Azorín & Fullan, 2022). According to the authors, collaborative learning structures are a necessity for schools of the future.

Here are three research bites from this essay:

1. Teacher collaboration is a core element of schools' learning culture. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed weaknesses in the learning culture of schools, including collaboration.
2. Student learning should be at the center of our educator collaborations. Deeper forms of student learning require deeper forms of educator collaborations.

3. Collaboration develops collective teacher knowledge and efficacy. In a post-pandemic era, we have opportunities to make collaboration a foundational element of educational improvement. How can we transform our schools into collaborative learning cultures?

## Research to Practice Takeaways

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The following five takeaways can support your current and future literacy collaborations.

1. To pursue future innovations in learning, we need new and deeper forms of collaboration networking within and *across* our schools (e.g., partnering with teachers who have similar or unique expertise in other schools and through online communities of practice).
2. Teaching and learning are collaborative processes and so is literacy. Students need to learn how to collaborate with each other, problem-solve with peers, and co-develop knowledge in various learning environments, from teachers who model collaboration with colleagues, parents, and others.
3. New teaching and learning frontiers require some pruning ... a less is more approach for more focused teaching and learning. Educator collaborations can guide and support school-based and team-based decisions about curricula, resources, use of teacher and student time, and collective student and teacher success.
4. Literacy collaborations, benefit student learning *and* educator professional enjoyment, sense of belonging, efficacy, knowledge, growth, and resilience.
5. Together, school leaders, literacy professionals, and classroom teachers, can create a schoolwide culture of collaboration that results in new literacy knowledge, shared instructional resources and expertise, family and community networks, and improved student learning.

## One Question for You

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Here's some food for thought...

- Looking back, looking forward, what is one *new* small, attainable action you can take to *reignite* your literacy collaborations?

Here's a tip...

- Find related collaboration ideas and resources in our [previous 2022 newsletter issues](#) and [webinars](#).

## Resources

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These resources can inspire and facilitate your collaborative goals.

- [5 Ways Teachers Can Collaborate to Support English Learners](#)
- [7 Fun Team-Building Activities for Teachers and Staff](#)
- [Building a Culture of Literacy: Ideas for Making Literacy the Foundation in Your School](#)
- [Collaborative Planning: Never Having to Go It Alone](#)
- [Using Collaborative Content Curation for Professional Development](#)

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