

# Building a Strong Foundation for Lifelong Literacy Success

## Introduction

*September 21, 2023*



**Solutions that Matter**



# PCG Team



**Julie McEachin**

Literacy Subject Matter Expert



**Robert Frantum-Allen**

Literacy Subject Matter Expert

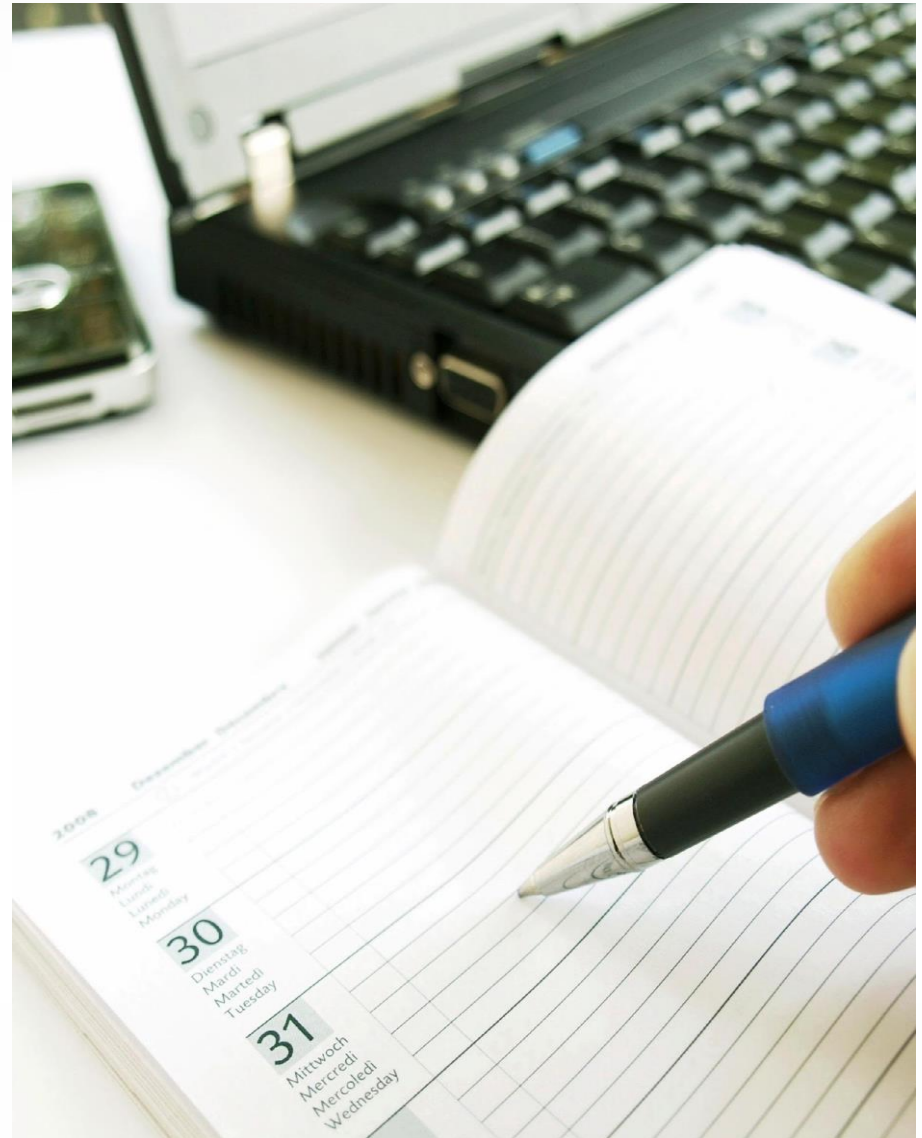


**Claire Conde**

Client Services Manager

# Agenda

- Warm Welcome
- Introduction to the Content
- Module 1: Understanding the Neuroscience of Literacy
- Registration and Navigation of Pepper
- Questions and Answers
- Optimistic Closure





## Warm Welcome

In the chat box introduce yourself, the school district or supervisor unions that you are representing and a current book you are reading for fun.

# Introduction to the Content

# Building a Strong Foundation for Lifelong Literacy Success

- Six Asynchronous Virtual Learning Modules
- Each module is 6-8 lessons, 45 to 60 minutes in length
- 45 hours total
- Educators and Administrators
- Kindergarten through Grade 12
- No-cost



# BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR LIFELONG LITERACY SUCCESS

## ONLINE SUPPORT MODULES

### Module 1: K-12 Understanding the Neuroscience of Literacy

Modules for Grades K-3	Modules for Grades 4-12
<b>Module 2: Exploring Language and Phonology</b>	<b>Module 2: Exploring Adolescent Literacy</b>
<b>Module 3: Understanding Phonics and Word Study Instruction</b>	<b>Module 3: Implementing Advanced Word Study</b>
<b>Module 4: Creating Fluent Readers</b>	<b>Module 4: Creating Fluent Readers</b>
<b>Module 5: Developing Vocabulary</b>	<b>Module 5: Developing Vocabulary</b>
<b>Module 6: Increasing Reading Comprehension</b>	<b>Module 6: Increasing Reading Comprehension</b>





# Timeline

Module	Release Date
Module 1 (K-12): Understanding the Neuroscience of Literacy	September 21, 2023
Module 2 (K-3): Exploring Language & Phonology	November 2023
Module 2 (4-12): Exploring Adolescent Literacy	November 2023
Module 3 (K-3): Understanding Phonics & Word Study Instruction	January 2024
Module 3 (4-12): Implementing Advanced Word Study	January 2024
Module 4 (K-3) and (4-12): Creating Fluent Readers	March 2024
Module 5 (K-3) and (4-12): Developing Vocabulary	May 2024
Module 6 (K-3) and (4-12): Increasing Reading Comprehension	June 2024



# **Module 1: K-12 Understanding the Neuroscience of Literacy**

# Understanding the Neuroscience of Literacy

## Outline

- Introduction
- Scientific Approach to Literacy Instruction
- Introduction to Literacy Research
- Effective Instructional Practices
- Understanding Literacy Assessment
- Closing



# Understanding the Neuroscience of Literacy Topics

- How the brain processes reading or the neuroscience of literacy
- Language processing requirements of proficient reading and writing
- How cognition and behavior affect reading and writing
- Environmental, cultural, and social factors that contribute to literacy development
- Developmental progression of literacy skills
- Relationships among major components of research-based literacy development
- Causal relationship among the components of literacy
- Goals and learner expectations for various stages of reading and writing development

# Navigating the Content in Pepper

The screenshot shows the Pepper LMS interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for PD Planner, Courses, Reports, People, Digital Library, Tools, and Messenger (17). The user's profile is shown as 'Me'. The main content area features the Vermont Agency of Education logo and a sidebar with a lesson list. The selected lesson is 'Lesson 1: Introduction', which includes 'Introduction', 'Pre-assessment', and 'Anticipation Guide'. The main content area displays a video player with the title 'Welcome to Building a Strong Foundation for Lifelong Literacy Success' and a play button. Below the video, there is a paragraph of introductory text and a list of modules. An illustration of a laptop, books, and glasses is positioned to the left of the module list.

**pepper** PD Planner Courses Reports People Digital Library Tools Messenger (17) Me

**VERMONT**  
AGENCY OF EDUCATION

- Lesson 1: Introduction
  - Introduction
  - Pre-assessment
  - Anticipation Guide
- Lesson 2: Scientific Approach to Reading Instruction
- Lesson 3: Introduction to Reading Research
- Lesson 4: Effective Instructional Practices
- Lesson 5: Understanding Reading Assessment
- Lesson 6: Closing Activities

## Welcome to Building a Strong Foundation for Lifelong Literacy Success

0:00 / 0:43

You are about to embark on a comprehensive professional learning journey based on the science of reading and focused on foundational reading skills. This course will take you through six sequential modules. It is recommended that you take these modules in order, as the information from one module is often the foundation for the next.

Module 1 is designed for all educators, as it concentrates on the neuroscience and research behind how students learn to read. Modules 2 through 6 are uniquely designed to concentrate on the needs of educators who teach or support students in grade bands K-3 or 4-12.

The modules below are offered as part of this course:

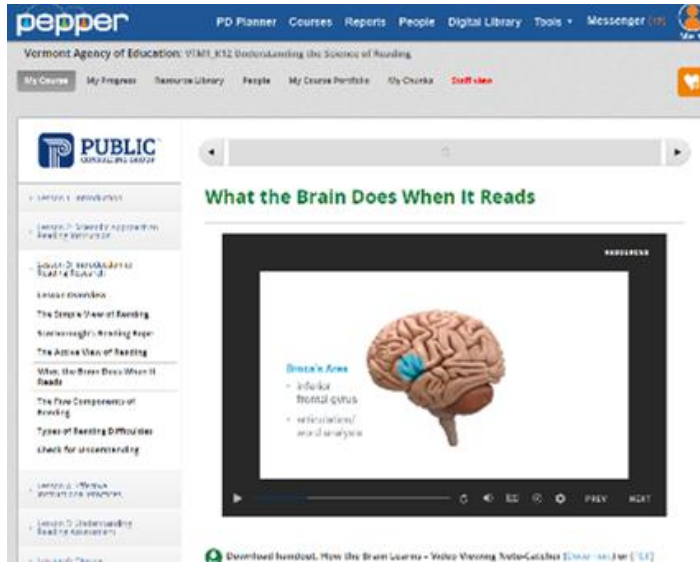
### BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR LIFELONG LITERACY SUCCESS

ONLINE SUPPORT MODULES

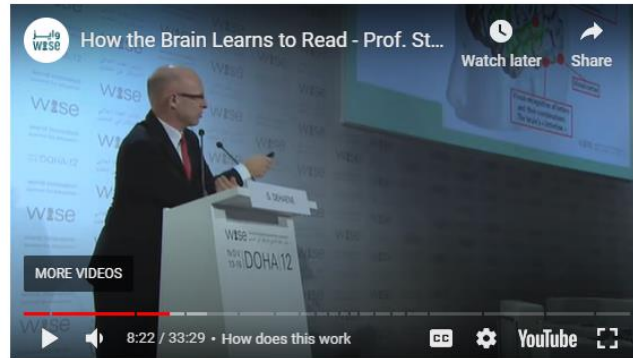
**Module 1: K-12 Understanding the Neuroscience of Literacy**

Modules for Grades K-3	Modules for Grades 4-12
Module 2: Exploring Language and Phonology	Module 2: Exploring Adolescent Literacy
Module 3: Understanding Phonics and Word Study Instruction	Module 3: Implementing Advanced Word Study
Module 4: Creating Fluent Readers	Module 4: Creating Fluent Readers
Module 5: Developing Vocabulary	Module 5: Developing Vocabulary
	Module 6: Increasing Reading

# What to expect in Pepper™



Watch the video until 15:40.



## Module 1: Understanding the Science of Reading How the Brain Learns – Video Viewing Note-Catcher

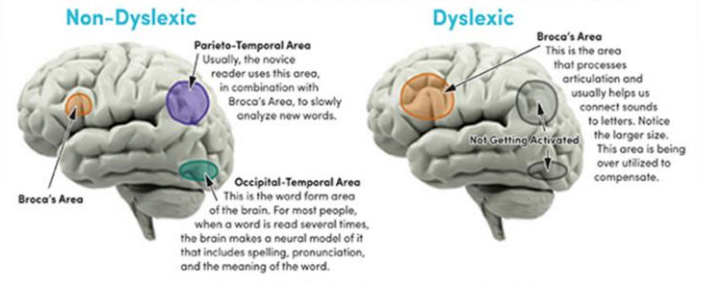
Directions: As you watch the video "[How the Brain Learns to Read - Prof. Stanislas Dehaene](#)," complete the chart below (stop at 15:40).

Questions	Response
According to Professor Dehaene, what is the <i>letter box</i> ?	
From the brain's point of view, learning to read consists of:	1. 2.
Explain how literacy acquisition changes the brain.	
Explain mirror writing and reading. Does this indicate dyslexia? Why or why not?	
Explain why phonics instruction is more effective than whole-word reading instruction.	
Explain how neurosciences can help education.	



# What to expect in Pepper™

## NON-DYSLEXIC BRAIN vs. DYSLEXIC BRAIN WHEN READING



Research in neuroscience reveals that the brain functions differently in people with dyslexia than those without it. These structural and neural differences make it more difficult for people with dyslexia to read, spell and write. For example, in the left brain hemisphere, three dominant areas of the brain are usually activated for reading, but in those with dyslexia, only one area of the brain is being stimulated.

pepper PD Planner Courses Reports People Digital Library Tools Messenger (17)

Reading Assessment

Lesson 6: Closing Activities

comprehension (as noted in the red circle). Finally, notice that the three arrows leading from active self-regulation represent how the inclusion of active self-regulation and its placement influences word recognition, bridging processes, and language comprehension. All of this leads to the outcome of masterful reading (as in the orange circle).

**ACTIVE SELF-REGULATION**  
Motivation and engagement  
Executive function skills  
Strategy use  
(word recognition strategies, comprehension strategies, vocabulary strategies, etc.)

**WORD RECOGNITION**  
Phonological awareness (syllables, phonemes, etc.)  
Alphabetic principle  
Phonics knowledge  
Decoding skills  
Recognition of words at sight

**BRIDGING PROCESSES**  
Fluency concepts  
Reading fluency  
Vocabulary knowledge  
Morphological awareness  
Graphophonological-semantic  
cognitive flexibility  
(letter-sound-meaning flexibility)

**LANGUAGE COMPREHENSION**  
Cultural and other content knowledge  
Reading-specific background knowledge (genre, text features, etc.)  
Vocabulary (inference, morphology, etc.)  
Language structures (syntax, semantics, etc.)  
Theory of mind

**READING**



Download handout: An Expert Minute with Anita Archer: Answer Key (Document) or (PDF)

Reflection

How might you create a student-centered learning environment while engaging in explicit instruction?

Response

Rich text editor toolbar with options for Bold, Italic, Underline, Font Family, Font Size, and other formatting tools.



# Navigation of Pepper™



# Pepper Online Platform | Registration

- To access Pepper and the online modules go to:  
<https://www.pepperpd.com/VTAOE/mainloginpage>.
- Fill in your email address and Click to submit. You can return here at any time to access Pepper. You will enter your email address and a password box will appear.



**Vermont Agency of Education**



**NEW USERS:**

To enroll in the professional learning series for Vermont, please enter your district/school email address in the box below and click on Click to Submit button to continue.

**RETURNING USERS:**

If you are an existing Pepper user, enter your email address and a box to enter your password will appear.

Email

[Help & Support](#) [Privacy Notice](#) © 2023 Public Consulting Group, Inc.



# Pepper Online Platform | Registration

- Fill out the registration form and choose the grade band version you would like to take. You will have immediate access to the platform and the modules. If you would like to also take modules from the alternate grade band, email [peppersupport@pcgus.com](mailto:peppersupport@pcgus.com) to be enrolled.

**VERMONT**  
AGENCY OF EDUCATION

Please complete the following fields to register for an account.  
Required fields are noted by **bold text and an asterisk (\*)**. Please use name as listed on your government issued ID.

**Fill in all required information as noted with an asterisk (\*)**

**Email \***  
vt@ed.net

**Password \***  
The password should consist of following characters: A-Z, a-z, 0-9 and one of the following special characters: !@#\$%^&\*~`|;:~<br>Example: jans0123

**Public Username \***  
Username cannot be the same as your password. This will be shown in any documents or letters that participants receive.  
Example: jans0123

**First Name \***  
Example: Jane

**Last Name \***  
Example: Doe

**State \***

Which version of the modules would you like to have access to? \*

/ --

Pre K-3 Educator/Support Staff

4-12 Educator/Support Staff

Select Date

# Pepper Online Platform | Courses

- On the dashboard, you will see the available modules in Courses or in My Courses on the right-hand panel. Modules will be automatically added here as they are released.

The screenshot displays the Pepper Online Platform dashboard. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the 'pepper' logo on the left and 'People', 'Messenger (1)', and 'Reports' on the right. Below the navigation bar, there are three tabs: 'My Feed', 'Courses', and 'My Resources'. The 'Courses' tab is highlighted with a red circle and labeled '1. Click "Courses"'. Below the tabs, there are two main sections. On the left, under 'Courses In Progress', there are two course entries. The first is 'Understanding the Science of Reading | CDEM1\_K12' with a progress bar at 0%. The second is 'PreAssessment\_Admin | CDEM1\_Lead' with a progress bar at 0%. This second entry is circled in red and labeled '2. Click to start the course'. On the right, there is a 'My Stats' section with various metrics like 'Total Time: 0 Minutes', 'Course Time: 0 Minutes', 'PD Time: 0 Minutes', 'Last Logged In: Invalid date', 'Enrolled Courses: 2', and 'Completed Courses: 0'. To the right of the stats is a 'VERMONT My Courses' panel. It has a 'My Courses' section with a red circle around the entry 'PreAssessment\_Admin | CDEM1\_Lead' and a label 'OR Click'. Below that is an 'Available Courses' section with the entry 'User's Guide to Pepper | PEP102'.

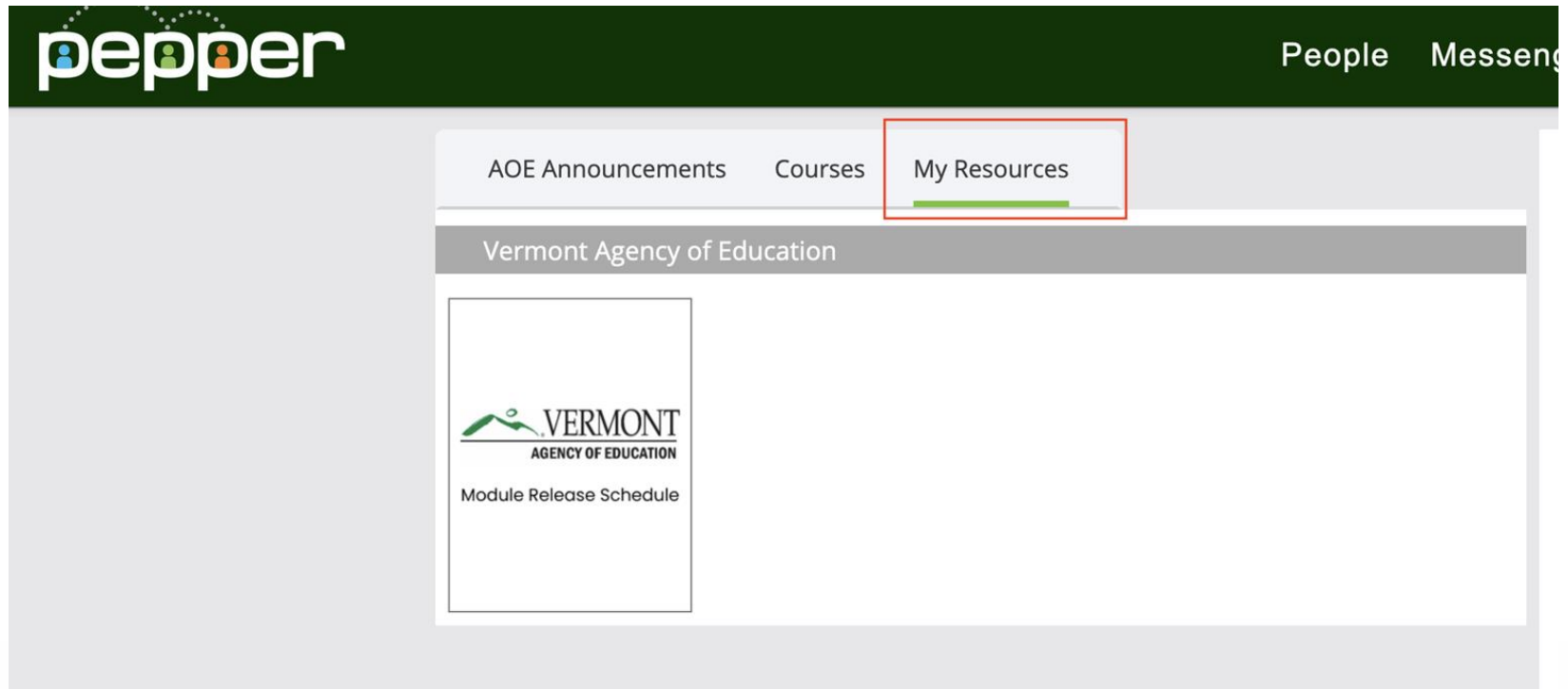
# Pepper Online Platform | Announcements

- Check AOE Announcements for announcements or to post a message to the peers whom you are connected to in your network.

The screenshot displays the Pepper Online Platform dashboard. At the top, there is a dark green navigation bar with the 'pepper' logo on the left and 'People', 'Messenger (1)', and 'Reports' on the right. Below this, a light gray header contains three tabs: 'AOE Announcements' (highlighted with a red box), 'Courses', and 'My Resources'. The main content area features a blue post creation box with a text input field and a 'Post' button. Below the post box is a section titled 'My Cohort Announcements' containing a welcome message from 'VTAOE Staff' dated 'Today at 4:15 PM'. The message includes a list of tips for getting started on the platform. On the right side, there is a sidebar with the Vermont Agency of Education logo and two green buttons: 'My Courses' and 'Available Courses', each with a 'View All' link. At the bottom of the sidebar, there is a link for 'User's Guide to Pepper | PEP102' with a 'View All' link.

# Pepper Online Platform | My Resources

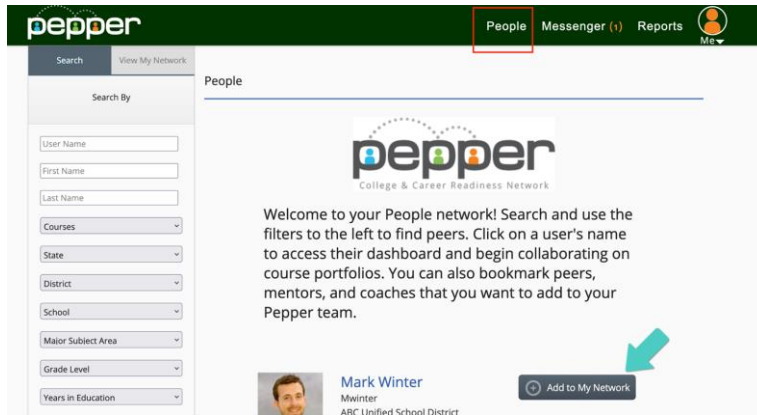
- Check My Resources to view a release schedule of the modules. A copy of this powerpoint and a recording of this presentation will be added as well as additional resources along the way.



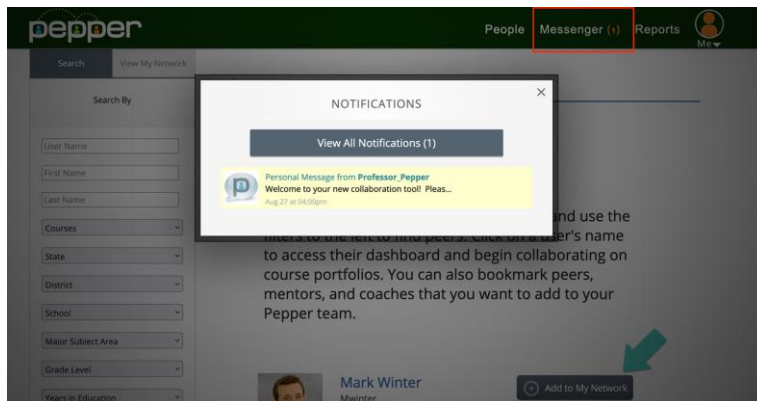
The screenshot displays the Pepper Online Platform interface. At the top, the 'pepper' logo is on the left, and 'People' and 'Messages' are on the right. Below this is a navigation bar with three tabs: 'AOE Announcements', 'Courses', and 'My Resources'. The 'My Resources' tab is highlighted with a red box and a green underline. Below the navigation bar, the text 'Vermont Agency of Education' is displayed. A large white box contains the Vermont Agency of Education logo and the text 'Module Release Schedule'.

# Pepper Online Platform | People & Messenger

Click on People to connect with peers and add them to your network

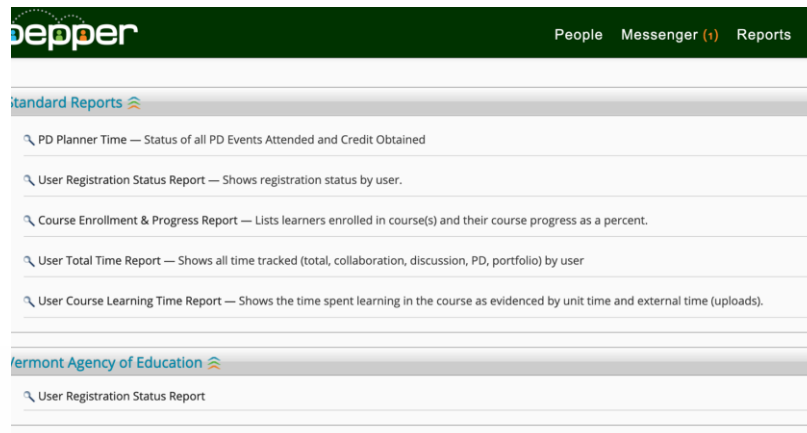
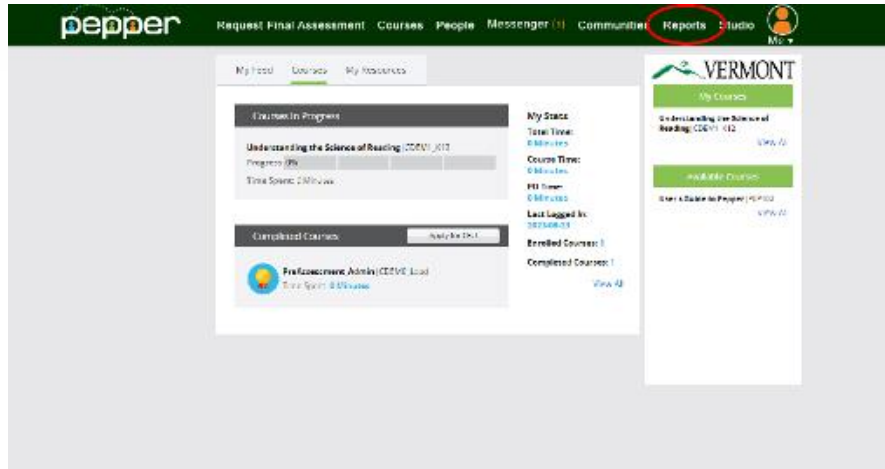


Click on Messenger to read notifications from peers in your network



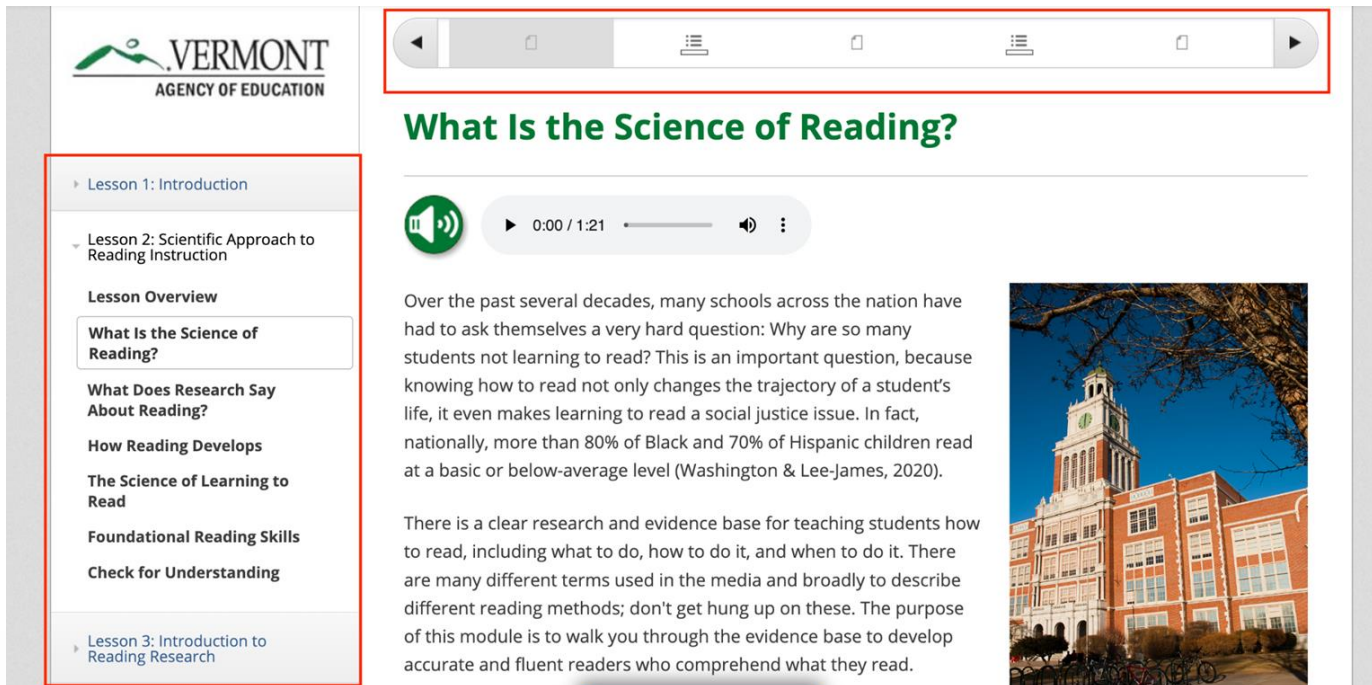
# Pepper Online Platform | Reports

- Click on Reports to view your progress and completions in each module



# Pepper Online Platform

- Navigate through the module by using the arrows at the top or bottom. You can stop, pause at any time and come back to resume where you left off. The left-hand navigation is a Table of Contents



The screenshot displays the Pepper Online Platform interface. At the top left is the Vermont Agency of Education logo. A navigation menu on the left lists lessons, with 'Lesson 2: Scientific Approach to Reading Instruction' expanded to show a 'Lesson Overview' section. The 'Lesson Overview' section includes a table of contents with 'What Is the Science of Reading?' highlighted. The main content area features a video player titled 'What Is the Science of Reading?' with a play button and a progress bar showing 0:00 / 1:21. Below the video player is a paragraph of text discussing the importance of reading and the challenges many students face. To the right of the text is a photograph of a large, multi-story brick building with a prominent clock tower. The interface includes a top navigation bar with arrows and a bottom navigation bar with a list of lessons.



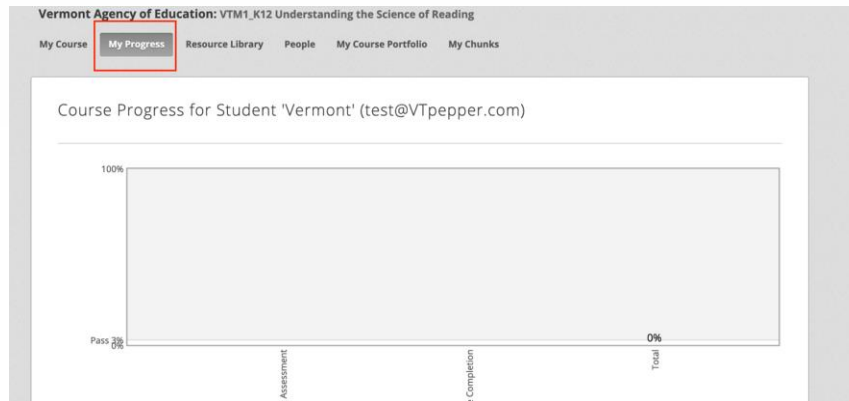
# Pepper Online Platform | Navigation Tutorial

- A brief tutorial within the Introduction of Lesson 1 will help provide guidance on how to navigate through the module in Pepper.

The screenshot displays the Pepper Online Platform interface. On the left is a navigation menu for the Vermont Agency of Education, featuring a logo at the top and a list of lessons. Lesson 1, 'Introduction', is expanded to show sub-items: 'Introduction', 'Pre-assessment', and 'Anticipation Guide'. Lessons 2 through 6 are listed below with expandable arrows. The main content area is titled 'Module Navigation' and features a large graphic with the text 'Understanding the Science of Reading' and a collage of diverse students. A 'RESOURCES' link is visible in the top right corner of the content area.

# Pepper Online Platform | Module Tabs

Monitor your progress in the module in the Progress tab



Access modules resources in the Resource Library

Vermont Agency of Education: VTM1\_K12 Understanding the Science of Reading

My Course My Progress Resource Library People My Course Portfolio My Chunks

## Resource Library

### Section 1: Introduction

#### Handouts

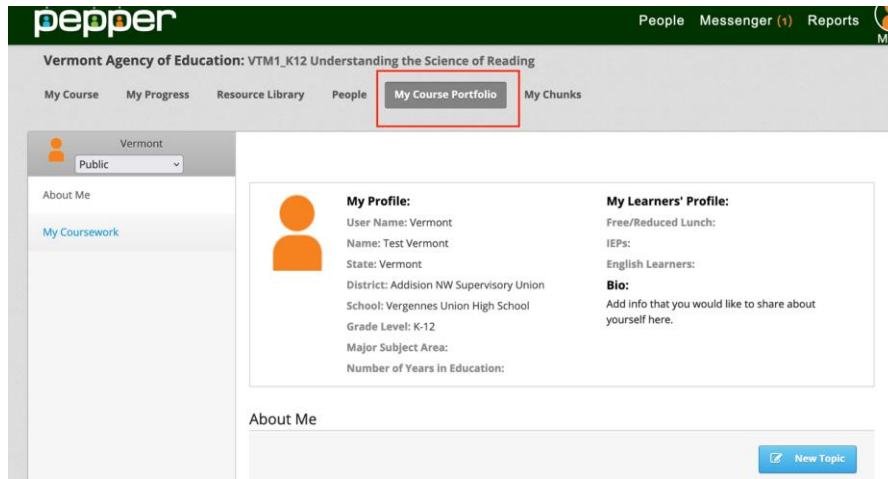
- Handout: Understanding the Science of Reading - Detailed Outline ([Document](#)) or ([PDF](#))
- Handout: Understanding the Science of Reading - Reference List ([Document](#)) or ([PDF](#))
- Handout: VADE (K-12) Course Definition of Terms Glossary ([Document](#)) or ([PDF](#))
- Handout: Vermont's NAEP 2022 Reading Snapshot Report for Grade 4
- Handout: Vermont's NAEP 2022 Reading Snapshot Report for Grade 8

#### Articles

- NAEP Reading: National Average Scores

# Pepper Online Platform | Module Tabs

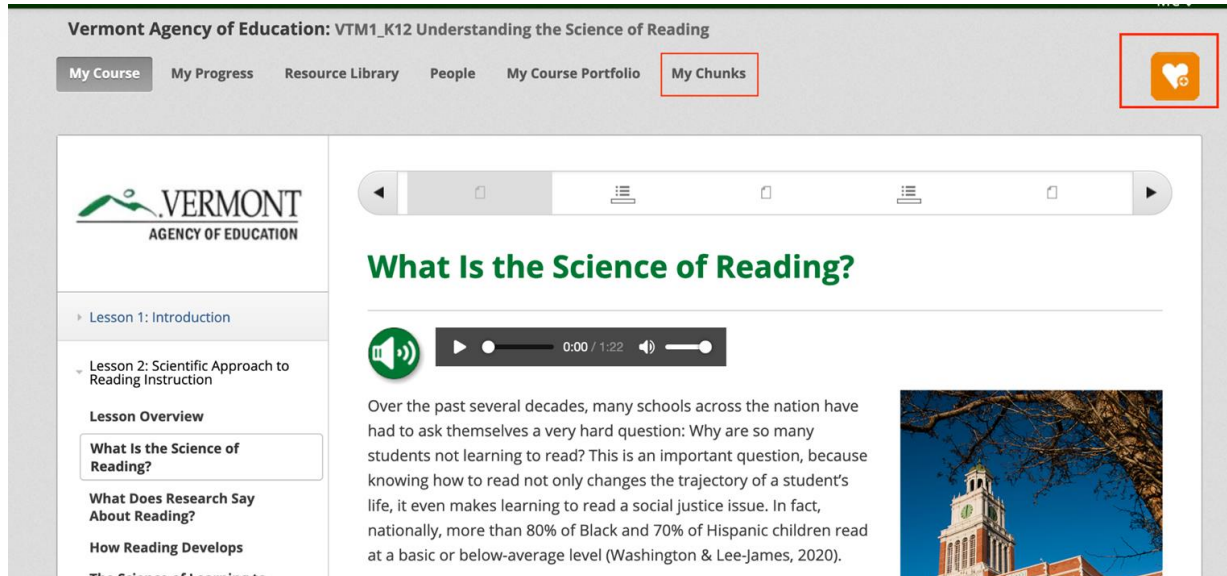
- View your coursework in My Course Portfolio



The screenshot displays the Pepper Online Platform interface. At the top, the 'pepper' logo is on the left, and navigation links for 'People', 'Messenger (1)', and 'Reports' are on the right. Below this, the course title 'Vermont Agency of Education: VTM1\_K12 Understanding the Science of Reading' is shown. A horizontal menu contains 'My Course', 'My Progress', 'Resource Library', 'People', 'My Course Portfolio' (highlighted with a red box), and 'My Chunks'. On the left side, there is a sidebar with 'Vermont' and 'Public' dropdowns, and links for 'About Me' and 'My Coursework'. The main content area features a profile section with an orange circle icon, 'My Profile' details (User Name: Vermont, Name: Test Vermont, State: Vermont, District: Addison NW Supervisory Union, School: Vergennes Union High School, Grade Level: K-12, Major Subject Area, Number of Years in Education), and 'My Learners' Profile' details (Free/Reduced Lunch, IEPs, English Learners). A 'Bio' section prompts the user to add information. At the bottom right of the profile section is a 'New Topic' button.

# Pepper Online Platform | Module Tabs

- Access your “Liked” Content in My Chunks



The screenshot displays the Vermont Agency of Education's online platform. At the top, the page title is "Vermont Agency of Education: VTM1\_K12 Understanding the Science of Reading". Below this, a navigation bar includes tabs for "My Course", "My Progress", "Resource Library", "People", "My Course Portfolio", and "My Chunks", with "My Chunks" highlighted. A red box highlights a heart icon in the top right corner, representing the "Liked" content feature. The main content area features the Vermont Agency of Education logo on the left and a video player for the video "What Is the Science of Reading?". The video player shows a progress bar at 0:00 / 1:22. Below the video, there is a text block discussing the importance of reading and a small image of a building.

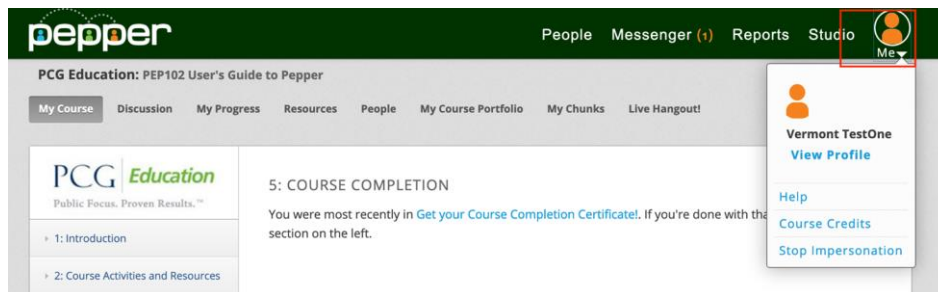
# Pepper Online Platform | Completed Courses & Certificate

- Completed courses will appear below Courses in Progress. Click on the gold medallion to view certificates. A certificate will be issued after completion of each module.

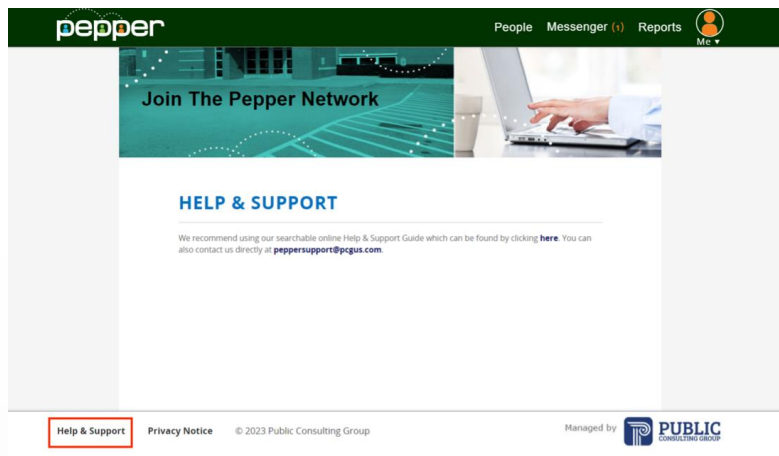
The screenshot displays the Pepper Online Platform interface. At the top, the 'pepper' logo is on the left, and navigation links for 'People', 'Messenger', and 'Reports' are on the right. A user profile icon labeled 'Me' is also present. Below the navigation bar, there are tabs for 'AOE Announcements', 'Courses', and 'My Resources'. The 'Courses' tab is active, showing a 'Courses In Progress' section and a 'Completed Courses' section. The 'Completed Courses' section is highlighted with a red box and contains a course titled 'User's Guide to Pepper | PEP102' with a gold medallion icon and 'Time Spent: 17 Minutes'. To the right of the course list is a 'My Stats' sidebar with the following information: Total Time: 17 Minutes, Course Time: 17 Minutes, PD Time: 0 Minutes, Last Logged In: 2023-09-19, Enrolled Courses: 0, and Completed Courses: 1. A 'View All' link is at the bottom of the stats. On the far right, the Vermont Agency of Education logo is visible, along with a 'My Courses' section and a 'View All' link.

# Pepper Online Platform | Help & Support

Under “Me” in the top right corner, view profile, access certificate, get Help through a User Guide



If you need to reach our Learner Support, go to Help and Support at bottom to find the email address [peppersupport@pcgus.com](mailto:peppersupport@pcgus.com)



# Questions and Answers



## Optimistic Closure

In the chat box type one thing about the course you are excited about.



**Today's webinar can be accessed at:**

<https://www.pepperpd.com/VTAOE/mainloginpage>



**Solutions that Matter**