

Julie Hiefield
MS Education Policy
MA Teaching

- Oregon Teaching License (PK-12 Reading Intervention; PK-12 Social Studies)
- Academy of Orton-Gillingham Practitioners and Educators, Associate Member
- International Dyslexia Association, Member
- Language Skills Therapy, Orton-Gillingham Practitioner
- Language and Literacy Fund at Portland Community College, Instructor

Julie Hiefield earned an MS in Education Policy and Administration from the University of Oregon in 1987 and an MA in Teaching from Lewis & Clark College in 1989. She began her career teaching Social Studies at Jefferson High School in Portland. Teaching at Jefferson, and later in Orange County, California (English Composition and Literature) and the Washington D.C. area (working with suspended middle and high school students) allowed her to realize she was ill equipped to support the literacy skills of struggling students. Upon returning to Oregon in 2001 she was introduced to the Orton-Gillingham approach. Upon completion of her training at the Blosser Center for Dyslexia Resources, she joined the nonprofit Language Skills Therapy in 2007. After five years working with children and adolescents she saw that adults with low literacy skills had very few options for support. She approached Portland Community College and offered to teach, together with Susan Farra, a literacy class based in the Orton-Gillingham approach. In 2015, the nonprofit Language and Literacy Fund was started and continues to serve PCC Cascade and SE campuses. Julie and Susan have given the workshop “The Orton-Gillingham Approach to Teaching Reading, Spelling and Writing” the last three years at the Portland Literacy Council’s annual conference and Julie co-presented the workshop “It’s Never Too Late to Learn to Read: Help for Adults with Dyslexia” at the 2018 Oregon GED Program Summit. Julie has also worked as a Reading Specialist for Portland Public Schools. In 2017, Julie and her colleagues, Rita, Susan and Cris, started RSW Group with the goal of supporting K-12 and post-secondary teachers in reading instruction.