

## Dr. Jennifer Zwillenberg

### Founder and Lead Consultant, Zwillenberg Consulting

Jennifer Zwillenberg holds a Doctor of Education in Reading, Writing, and Literacy from the University of Pennsylvania, a Master of Education from Loyola University as a Reading Specialist, and a Master of Arts in Teaching from Johns Hopkins in Secondary English. She is currently an instructional designer in the Office of Digital Teaching and Learning as well as an affiliate professor of education at Loyola University of Maryland.

She also has eight years of classroom teaching experience at the middle school level as well as over ten years of providing professional development for educator with a focus on coaching elementary and secondary school teachers in reading development and literacy.

Dr. Zwillenberg has published as well as presented at numerous conferences about students' reading development; child, adolescent, and young adult literature; teachers' professional growth; and learner support across the K-12 spectrum. Her research has received multiple awards and recognition, including being cited as one of ten most promising research-to-action dissertations from the American Library Association in their flagship magazine, *American Libraries*.

Dr. Zwillenberg grew up in New Hampshire and moved to Maryland when she received her first teaching position. She is married and has been living in Baltimore for over twenty years. Her own small readers include her son, whose passion for historical fiction resulted in a Revolutionary War-themed 7<sup>th</sup> birthday party, and her daughter, who is currently obsessed with a pigeon who wants to drive the bus.

## Understanding Early Literacy for School Leaders

School leaders will gain 1) an understanding of early literacy development, 2) tools to communicate best practices to stakeholders - including families, and 3) structures to facilitate a professional learning community around central concepts in literacy development. Topics will include knowledge of development for reading, writing, and language broadly, tools to teach readers to support their meaning making processes at unknowns, and an overview of frameworks and approaches to teaching reading development. Leaders will leave with slides and talking points for facilitating conversations about literacy growth as well as a list of resources that can support their own and their team's development in early literacy instruction.

# Headshot

