



Lunch and Learn: Virtual Unlocking Big Words (UBW) Summer 2026

Hosted by: VDOE's Training & Technical Assistance Center (TTAC) at GMU

Join us, virtually, this summer for Region 4's **3-Day UBW Summer Series!** This engaging professional learning opportunity is designed to expand and enrich the instructional practices you already bring to the classroom. Together, we will explore practical strategies for teaching multisyllabic word reading and spelling through the six syllable types and meaningful word parts. Participants will deepen their understanding of how decoding, encoding, and comprehension work together to support students as they read and write multisyllabic words with confidence.

Format: Virtual

Time: 1:30PM-3:30PM

Audience: Classroom Educators

Session Line-Up

Tuesday, August 4, 2026: Day 1: Cracking the Code with Foundational Syllable Types & Schwa

Wednesday, August 5, 2026: Day 2: Mastering Vowel Patterns for Complex Words

Thursday, August 6, 2026: Day 3: Unlocking Meaning with Advanced Patterns

Across All Sessions, You Will:

- Practice **explicit, systematic instructional routines** aligned with structured literacy that move students from accuracy to automaticity.
- Use consistent routines that connect **reading (decoding)** and **spelling (encoding)**.
- Integrate decoding and encoding routines for authentic reading and writing tasks.
- Build confidence in teaching students to **analyze, break apart, and construct complex words**.

Please use the [GMU TTAC Summer 2026 UBW Series](#) link to register by July 31st. The Zoom link will be emailed to participants the day prior to the session.

If you have any questions, please reach out to April Lennox alennox2@gmu.edu.