

Investigator Trina D. Spencer, PhD
trinaspencer@usf.edu

Coordinator Sabrina Burns, BS
sburns5@usf.edu
u 813.974.3921

Dr. Trina D. Spencer was awarded a

academic language.

Researchers partnered with Hillsborough County Public Schools HOST program to complete this research.

Academic language is the pivotal skill repertoire for closing the achievement gap and attention to it is nearly absent in primary grades. Dr. Spencer's long-term goal is to elevate reading and writing achievement by promoting a sustained focus on academic language beginning

language samples from K-3

students. They have transcribed them and now the ALPS team is analyzing the samples to create comprehensive linguistic profiles of students' vocabulary and grammar focusing especially on the differences between students with above average and below average skills. These gaps indicate where interventions should be directed.

Because the overarching aim of this effort is to reduce the language-based achievement gap, the results will inform the future development of academic language educational materials. Researchers will also produce grade level sequences