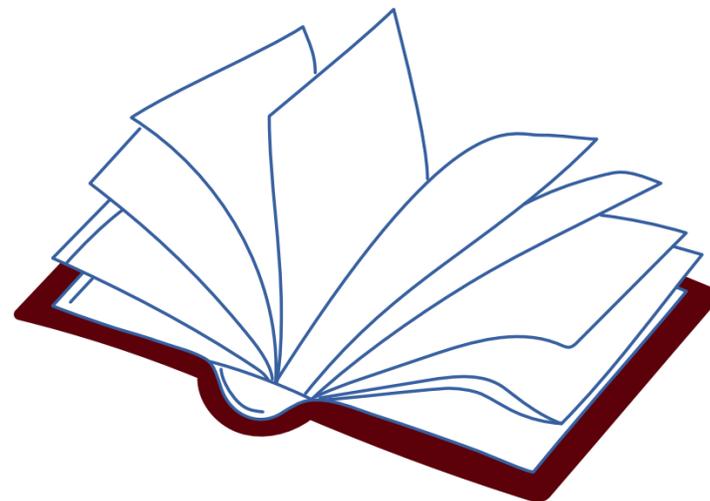




Literacy Pilot Update

Board of Education Meeting

September 10, 2024



Sarah Hornung
Assistant Superintendent of
Curriculum, Innovation and Pupil Services



Overview

Over the past several years, our district has dedicated significant time and resources to research and evaluate the most effective methods for teaching reading.

Based on the latest educational research, we have shifted from a balanced literacy approach to one grounded in the Science of Reading and evidence-based instructional practices.

The Science of Reading is a comprehensive, evidence-based approach that integrates phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension to support students in becoming proficient readers.



Literacy Steering Committee

In the 2023-2024 school year, the District launched a Literacy Steering Committee to guide this shift.

The committee of nearly 50 stakeholders met 10 times and included teachers and administrators representing the following areas: classroom teachers, special education, AIS and reading specialists, ENL, school psychologists, librarians and speech pathologists.

Some committee representatives also met with community stakeholders this year including parents, higher education administrators, and Board of Education members.



Literacy Steering Committee

The committee was tasked with the following:

- Gaining a deeper understanding of the science of reading
- Evaluating our current literacy practices through the lens of the science of reading
- Reviewing the recently released NYSED Literacy Briefs
- Developed a district-wide mission, vision, and guiding principles for literacy instruction

During the 2024-2025 school year, over sixty K-6 classrooms are piloting new ELA curriculum.



Pilot Programs

Amplify CKLA





Program Selection Process

Members of the Literacy Steering Committee utilized the following reports, recommendations and guidance to identify a list of potential pilot programs which aligned with the science of reading and recent guidance released by the New York State Education Department (NYSED).

- [NYSED Literacy Briefs](#)
- [Science of Reading Defining Guide](#)
- [EdReports](#)
- [The Reading League's Curriculum Navigation Reports](#)



Program Selection Process

Four curriculum companies were offered the opportunity to present their program to our committee.

Committee members were then asked to vote on two final programs to be piloted in the district.

Amplify CKLA





Program Highlights

ELA Curriculum is often discussed in three big buckets:

- **Core: Comprehensive** -Instructional materials that claim to deliver all grade-level or course level standards.
- **Core: No Foundational Skills** -Instructional materials designed to be supplemented with foundational skills-specific products.
- **Supplemental: Foundational Skills Only** - Instructional materials designed to only deliver foundational skills content and to be used with a core curriculum.



Program Highlights

During the process of selecting programs to pilot, several priorities were established.

- Utilize authentic texts
- Review pilot programs which would complement our commitment to UFLI in Grades K-3
- Be consistent and available in Grades K-6
- Have a strong knowledge building foundation, incorporating science, social studies and writing throughout

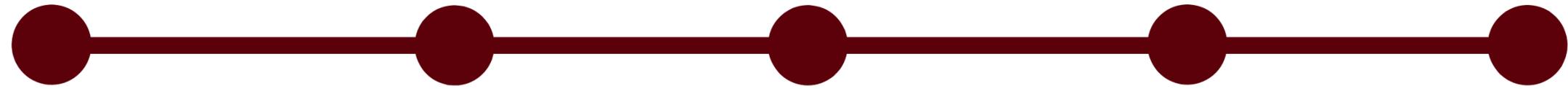


Timeline

September 2024
Pilots begin

March 2025
Decision

September 2025
Full implementation



January 2025
Some pilots switch

April 2025
Board Adoption



Professional Learning

During the 2024-2025 school year, the district has partnered with The Reading League to provide professional learning through seven key sessions:

- Administrator Introduction Day
- Teacher Introduction Day
- Oral Language Development to Boost Comprehension & Composition
- Phonemic Awareness
- Phonic Knowledge
- 6-Step Lesson Plan for Decoding, Spelling and Fluency, Part A
- 6-Step Lesson Plan for Decoding, Spelling and Fluency, Part B



Thank you, TEACHERS!



During the 2023-2024 school year:

- All K-3 teachers were trained in UFLI, our foundational skills/phonics program.
- Over 50 teachers participated in the Literacy Steering Committee.
- Over 100 teachers participated in a book study with the texts *Shifting the Balance* and *The Knowledge Gap*.
- Over 85 teachers earned the SUNY New Paltz Science of Reading microcredential.
- School psychologists and reading specialists participated in 4 days of professional learning with SUNY Oswego on diagnosing and supporting students with dyslexia.
- Over 60 teachers volunteered to pilot new ELA instructional programs.



Family & Community Engagement

Families and students will have opportunities to provide feedback on their experience in pilot classrooms through a family and student survey in February. The results will be used during the decision making process in March.



Parent Information Series presents:

Understanding the Science of Reading for Families

March 4, 2025

6:00 PM

