

Wayne County Schools
Foundational Literacy Skills Plan

Approved: May 22, 2021

This Foundational Literacy Skills Plan has been approved by the Tennessee Department of Education and meets the requirements of the *Tennessee Literacy Success Act*. All portions of the Foundational Literacy Skills plan were submitted to the department and approved. To view the supplemental artifacts, please contact the district directly.

Daily Foundational Literacy Skills Instruction in Grades K-2

Daily Foundational Literacy Skills Instruction in Grades K-2

TN Foundational Skills Curriculum, developed by the TN Department of Education, will be the foundational literacy skills instruction for PreK-5 this upcoming school year. This program has been approved by the state and is aligned to the Tennessee ELA standards as outlined by the state Textbook and Instructional Materials Quality Commission. The curriculum uses foundational skills as the primary form of instruction and comprises sixty minutes of the 120-180 minutes of daily ELA instruction in K-2 classrooms for Tier I instruction. The foundational skills addressed during the sixty minutes include, but are not limited to, phonological awareness, phonemic awareness, and phonics, as well as addressing fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary through decodable readers and read-alouds. Students receive explicit instruction from teachers and engage in high-quality group and individual activities geared toward increasing students' awareness and automaticity of sound usage and word recognition.

The scope and sequence of the curriculum is based on effective instructional practices that have been researched and found to be successful with struggling readers. The skill sequence follows a routine that promotes mastery of basic sounds and skills before more difficult ones are introduced. Adequate time is allotted for review and practice of skills to increase retention.

This program provides a shift in our curriculum from a more integrated, whole language approach to foundational skills acquisition to more explicit, sequential instruction that is subsequently integrated into the reading block.

Daily Foundational Literacy Skills Instruction in Grades 3-5

Daily Foundational Literacy Skills Instruction in Grades 3-5

Grades 3-4 use the same reading series as K-2, Houghton Mifflin-Harcourt Into Reading (which is aligned to the TN state standards), and have at least 30 minutes allocated for foundational skills instruction each day. Teachers use a more integrated approach to foundational skills in these grades to increase fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension in content areas. Students are provided ample activities to practice foundational skills within the time frame. Students receive 120-180 minutes of reading instruction daily during the ELA block.

Grade 5 receives 60-120 minutes of daily ELA instruction in a departmentalized setting. The curriculum for Grade 5 is McGraw-Hill Wonders, which is aligned to the TN state standards. Students receive at least 30 minutes of foundational skills instruction integrated into the ELA block, which includes components of grammar, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, spelling and writing. Individual skills are not taught in isolation, but rather are integrated into the content to ensure a cohesive understanding of the skills being taught in context. For example, non-fiction texts are used to teach science and social studies topics, but spelling, dictionary skills, grammar, and writing are integrated into the lessons as students analyze and respond to texts.

Improvements for the upcoming year are rooted in the need to fill gaps in foundational skills that students in upper grades have experienced in younger grades. Teachers will be provided professional development to focus on implementing the program effectively in the classroom.

Approved Instructional Materials for Grades K-2

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt - K-2, 4-5 Into Reading, Tennessee

Approved Instructional Materials for Grades 3-5

McGraw Hill - K-5 Wonders

Additional Information about Instructional Materials

Two elementary schools are Pre-K - 4th Grade and two middle schools are 5-8. One unit school is Pre-K - 12th grade. The following information is included for clarification:

Approved Instructional Materials for Grades K-2

* Houghton Mifflin-Harcourt Into Reading series

Approved Instructional Materials for Grades 3-5

* Grades 3-4 - Houghton Mifflin-Harcourt Into Reading series

* Grade 5 - McGraw-Hill Wonders

Additional Instructional Materials Information

* Grades PreK-2 - Tennessee Foundational Skills Program developed by the Tennessee Department of Education

Universal Reading Screener for Grades K-5. This screener complies with RTI² and Say Dyslexia requirements.

Universal Reading Screener for Grades K-5

AIMSweb plus is the universal reading screener used for K-5 for benchmark assessment and progress monitoring and is on the state approved list. AIMSweb plus complies with RTI² and Say Dyslexia requirements and is available to PreK. This screener is used to assess Letter/ Word Sound Fluency, Phoneme Segmentation, Word Reading Fluency, Nonsense Word Fluency, Oral Reading Fluency, and Auditory Vocabulary. It also has screeners for behavior issues and dyslexia. It is used

as the benchmark assessment in the fall, winter, and spring. It is also used as progress monitoring every two weeks for Tier II students and every week for Tier III students.

Intervention Structure and Supports

Intervention Structure and Supports

Students who scored below the 25th percentile are identified as “at risk” are provided thirty additional, small-group instruction daily. Students who score below the 10th percentile receive 45 additional minutes. Placements are also determined by classroom performance, TCAP results, and teacher observations. Tier II and III intervention groups focus on letter naming, letter sounds, phoneme segmenting, word reading fluency, oral reading fluency, or reading comprehension. RTI Data Team Meetings occur every 4 ½ weeks to evaluate student progress through evaluation of progress monitoring data, and either continue or change the intervention, or change Tier placement.

Specific Intervention programs used across the district include 95% group, SPIRE, Corrective Reading (5th grade) and other research-based programs as appropriate.

Parent Notification Plan/Home Literacy Reports

Parent Notification Plan/ Home Literacy Reports

AIMSweb plus provides a parent notification letter for all parents which includes a message about the importance of reading on grade level by grade three and how the screener works, as well as a graph that shows the student’s scores as they relate to district and national norms. These notification letters are sent out at least three times per year in grades K-3 and at at least annually for grades 4 and 5. Additional reports are sent to parents of students who score below the 25th percentile and are considered “at risk,” informing them of action to be taken to move them to Tier II or Tier III instruction after benchmark testing, as well as every 4 ½ weeks. Parents are also notified by letter if students are moved from one Tier to another. Letters provide an explanation of the structure and content of instruction in each of the Tiers.

Individual schools send home parent information letters about reading intervention activities that can be done at home to increase a student’s reading performance. These letters often provide practice activities that parents can engage in with their child. The website for the TN Foundational Skills curriculum provides no-cost, parent support activities that support learning at home. If parents have no internet service at home, the LEA will print these activities and provide these printed materials to the families at no cost to the parents. Parent Notification letters are sent home to inform parents about the resources and how to access them. Support is provided by the school if parents need internet access or help finding the support activities.

Professional Development Plan

Professional Development Plan

Teachers in K-5, as well as any teachers who work directly with students academically are provided the free and optional Reading 360 Early Literacy Training developed by the Tennessee Department of Education. Our plan for providing the training is as follows:

* April 2021 – PreK-5 teachers participated in the online Week 1 Early Literacy Training series. This training focused on foundational reading development and instruction and is grounded in a phonics-based approach. Participating teachers will earn a certificate of completion once they have taken the summative assessment.

* June/ July 2021 – PreK-5 teachers will choose one of two in-person trainings offered as the Week 2 portion of the Early Literacy Training series. This training will focus on practical classroom application of research findings around strong instruction in phonological awareness, phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, and vocabulary.

* In addition to the Reading 360 Early Literacy Training series, teachers will participate in various in-person PLCs focused on classroom integration of the strategies learned and materials provided, as well as district-sponsored in-service meetings.

Additional Information about this Foundational Literacy Skills Plan

The LEA is planning to utilize all the Early Literacy materials provided as supplements in the upcoming year. Our leadership team has evaluated the use of these materials and has decided every school will fully implement these materials and concepts of phonemic awareness at every grade K-2.