

Humphreys County Schools

Foundational Literacy Skills Plan

Last Updated: May 28, 2021

Approved: June 11, 2024

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

For the next two academic years, our district will be utilizing Amplify Skills and Knowledge and / or McGraw Hill's Wonders to build foundational reading skills, fluency, comprehension, spelling skills, vocabulary, grammar, and writing skills within our K-2 students for ninety (90) minutes each day.

Amplify is grounded in the science of reading and aligned to Tennessee ELA standards as approved by the state Textbook and Instructional Materials Quality Commission. This curriculum uses the "sounds first" approach in order for students to develop even stronger foundational reading skills incorporating phonological awareness activities, phonics, chaining, spelling, fluency practice, and comprehension activities (reading decodable texts and answering questions through written responses) within their foundational skills lessons. Then, the Knowledge portion of Amplify continues to augment student comprehension by building students' background knowledge, vocabulary, listening comprehension skills, and writing skills. These two parts of Amplify work synergistically to interweave the two strands of Scarborough's Rope within each student.

The scope and sequence of the Amplify curriculum is based on research of effective instruction with assisting struggling readers as a focus. Initial units provide skills-based assessments to determine if students have unfinished instruction needing remediation or if they are ready to advance in the curriculum. Additionally, each unit contains Pausing Points days (3 per unit in Kindergarten and first grade and 5 per unit in second grade) to allot time to reteach and / or remediate. Remediation, as well as enrichment, lessons are also provided by the curriculum.

McGraw Hill's Wonders is also aligned to Tennessee ELA standards as approved by the state Textbook and Instructional Materials Quality Commission. Wonders is a strong standards-based curriculum with a heavy focus on fluency, comprehension, spelling, vocabulary, grammar, and writing. Second grade teachers at McEwen Elementary and at Waverly Elementary have decided to use McGraw Hill's Wonders for comprehension, grammar, vocabulary, and writing skills as opposed to Amplify Knowledge. First grade at McEwen Elementary will also be utilizing McGraw Hill's Wonders for additional fluency practice, comprehension, vocabulary, and writing skills as opposed to Amplify Knowledge.

Our improvements for next year include:

1. Utilizing the ELA Instructional Coach to assist teachers' implementation of the curriculum via discussion, modeling, and team teaching; to provide in-services for all teachers about effective techniques; to answer questions regarding the curriculum; and to regularly meet with teachers during their PLCs to assist with or facilitate unit unpacking, lesson preparations, remediation, small group centers, and data analysis.
2. Having weekly grade-level PLCs for teachers to unpack the units, understand the daily lesson plans, coordinate remediation, effectively use small group centers, and analyze data from summative and formative assessments.
3. Having the entire curriculums (both Amplify and Wonders) including their technology readily accessible to all teachers.
4. Having each school's administration more knowledgeable about the curriculum in order to be an additional support to their teachers.

AimswestPlus is currently being used as the universal reading screener for all grades, K-12. Administered three times per year, we plan to use its results to help identify students with unfinished instruction so that remediation can begin as soon as possible.

Daily Foundational Literacy Skills Instruction in Grades 3-5

For the next two academic years, our district will be utilizing McGraw Hill's Wonders, which is also aligned to Tennessee ELA standards as approved by the state Textbook and Instructional Materials Quality Commission. Wonders is a strong standards-based curriculum with a heavy focus on fluency, comprehension, spelling, vocabulary, grammar, morphology, and writing. Foundational skills instruction is embedded for a minimum of 30 minutes daily.

Our improvements for next year include:

1. Utilizing the ELA Instructional Coach to assist teachers' implementation of the curriculum via discussion, modeling, and team teaching; to provide in-services for all teachers about effective techniques; to answer questions regarding the curriculum; and to regularly meet with teachers during their PLCs to assist with or facilitate unit unpacking, lesson preparations, remediation, small group centers, and data analysis.
2. Having weekly grade-level PLCs for teachers to unpack the units, understand the daily lesson plans, coordinate remediation, effectively use small group centers, and analyze data from summative and formative assessments.
3. Having the entire curriculum (Wonders) including their technology readily accessible to all teachers
4. Having each school's administration more knowledgeable about the curriculum in order to be an additional support to their teachers.

AimswestPlus is currently being used as the universal reading screener for all grades, K-12. Administered three times per year, we plan to use its results to help identify students with unfinished instruction so that remediation can begin as soon as possible.

Additional Supports

Humphreys County is dedicated to improving student literacy. To address the specifications of Level 1 or 2 for various schools and student subgroups within our district, we plan to do the following:

- The ELA Instructional Coach will be playing a more significant role during planning time with ELA teachers at the identified schools by more closely helping them to unpack the units and to use the Student Work Protocol as a pivotal part of their lesson plans.
- The summer professional developments (July 2024) at individual schools will include specific strategies to address the needs of our at-risk students--those with unfinished instruction, by centering on small group instruction and the supports needed to improve student literacy.
- We will be having a district-wide PD conducted by cognitive specialist Kimberly Carraway focusing on improving morphology instruction and strengthening writing using McGraw Hill's Wonder's curriculum to support both the identified school and the specific subgroups.
- We are also using Go React during the 2024-2025 school year to help teachers strengthen each other via videos of them implementing the strategies presented this summer.

Approved Instructional Materials for Grades K-2

Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts

Approved Instructional Materials for Grades 3-5

McGraw Hill Wonders

Supplemental Instructional Materials

Second grade teachers at McEwen Elementary and at Waverly Elementary use McGraw Hill's Wonders for comprehension, grammar, vocabulary, and writing skills as opposed to Amplify Knowledge. First grade at McEwen Elementary will also be utilizing McGraw Hill's Wonders for additional fluency practice, comprehension, vocabulary, and writing skills as opposed to Amplify Knowledge.

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

Tennessee Universal Reading Screener (aimswebPlus) Grades K-5

Intervention Structure and Supports

Reading Interventionists' schedules are aligned with expectations outlined in the Updated RTI² Manual. Interventions are evidence-based and differentiated by Tier II and III as required for 30-45 minutes daily. Additionally, the interventions address specific students' skill gaps, while interventionists progress monitor specific gaps for student improvement. Data teams use progress monitoring data and other student data to inform decisions about the duration, material, and intensity changes when a student is not showing progress. Currently, our district uses the following materials for tiered interventions: Heggerty Phonemic Awareness, SPIRE, Wilson Reading System and the Assessment and Remediation Guide component from CKLA.

Parent Notification Plan/Home Literacy Reports

The Humphreys County Schools sends a letter to families in October, January, and May (after each AimswebPlus Reading Screener has been completed) for students in grades K-5. The letter explains to families in family-friendly language the student's skill gaps including the depth and extent of student need, that the child will be receiving intervention using a multisensory, direct, and explicit program that addresses those needs, and that progress will be monitored to determine if the child's unfinished instructional needs are being met. We include information on the importance of reading on grade level by third grade, the pathway to 4th grade, and no cost activities that the parent can use at home to help their child with reading.

In regard to the importance of reading proficiency by the end of 3rd grade and 4th grade promotion pathways information, our district not only sends information home via this literacy report, but we also hold family meetings in the evenings at each elementary school to present the information in family-friendly language and to answer any questions.

Additionally, our district participates in the Governor's Early Literacy Foundation where rising first, second, and third graders receive free books, and their families receive information about activities to do with their children to help strengthen foundational reading skills. Families are informed about this opportunity via a letter.

Professional Development Plan

All teachers K-5 in our district have completed the Early Reading Training. Any new teacher to our district is required to show proof of or complete the training prior to teaching.

The summer professional developments (July 2024) at individual schools include specific strategies to address the needs of our at-risk students--those with unfinished instruction, by centering on small group instruction.

Furthermore, we will be having a district-wide PD conducted by cognitive specialist Kimberly Carraway focusing on improving morphology instruction and strengthening writing using McGraw Hill's Wonder's curriculum.

To address the specifications of Level 1 or 2 for various schools within our district, the ELA Instructional Coach will be playing a more significant role during planning time with ELA teachers by more closely helping them to unpack the units and to use the Student Work Protocol as a pivotal part of their lesson plans.

Lastly, we are also using Go React during the 2024-2025 school year to help teachers strengthen each other via videos of them implementing the strategies presented this summer.

Please note that we have scheduled walk throughs to ensure fidelity to the rigor of the ELA curriculum. Those walk throughs are scheduled for September, January, and March.