



River Trails

SCHOOL DISTRICT 26

To: River Trails Board of Education
From: Kristine Seifert - Assistant Superintendent Teaching & Learning
Re: Curriculum Cycle Update Spring 2025

Introduction:

This memo is being provided to update the BOE on the progress and changes within the curriculum cycle.

2024-25 Progress and Achievements:

Middle School ELA Curriculum Review: A comprehensive, yearlong review of the English Language Arts curriculum at River Trails Middle School has culminated in a recommendation for the adoption of a new core program. Grounded in teacher feedback, standards alignment, and evidence-based practices, the recommended curriculum is designed to strengthen literacy instruction and support all learners in alignment with district priorities.

Middle School Coding Curriculum Review: In partnership with the Director of Innovation and Technology, middle school coding teacher has completed a comprehensive review of the current curriculum. This process focused on developing a vertically aligned, standards-based curriculum across grades 6–8. The updated curriculum integrates a variety of technologies and platforms to provide students with broad exposure to multiple coding languages and real-world programming experiences, preparing them for future academic and career pathways in computer science.

Materials to Support Language Learners: To enhance support for multilingual students, the district has explored and invested in instructional materials designed to build language development across a range of proficiency levels. These resources will strengthen the full continuum of language services at the middle school, ensuring that all language learners have access to high-quality, targeted support within core and supplemental instructional settings. In addition, the materials will support newcomers at all grade levels in developing foundational English language skills.

2025-26 Planning:

As we continue to advance our curriculum review process, the district has identified three primary focus areas for the upcoming year:

Middle School STEM: We will conduct a thorough review of the middle school STEM curriculum, evaluating its alignment with district priorities and its effectiveness in fostering inquiry-based learning and critical thinking. This review will involve ongoing feedback from teachers and students to ensure that the program continues to meet the needs of all learners.

Elementary ELA: The district will focus on the implementation and ongoing refinement of the elementary English Language Arts curriculum. This initiative will ensure that all materials align with state standards, promote literacy development, and engage students in both foundational skills and higher-level literacy practices. Teachers will receive continuous support as they integrate these materials into their classrooms.

Middle School Social Studies: A comprehensive review of the middle school social studies curriculum will be conducted, ensuring that it aligns with both state standards and our district's goals for critical thinking and civic engagement. This review will focus on the integration of diverse perspectives, inquiry-based learning, and the development of historical thinking skills.

In addition to these primary areas, we will be closely monitoring the initial implementation of the Middle School ELA, coding, and ELL resources to ensure that these programs are meeting the intended goals and supporting our students

effectively. Additionally, we will continue to assess the second year of implementation for Middle School Math, Spanish, and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) resources. This will involve gathering feedback, conducting classroom observations, and analyzing student outcomes to make any necessary adjustments to ensure sustained success.

Financial Impact:

Expenditures associated with the Middle School ELA adoption will be taken from the 2025-26 Teaching and Learning budget. Expenditures related to the coding audit will be taken from 2025-26 Title IV funding. Expenditures related to ELL materials will be taken from the 2025-26 Title III budget.

Attachments:

- [District 26 Curriculum Review Cycle - Spring 2025 Update](#)
- [Core Materials List](#)