



STATE OF CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents of Schools
Charter School Directors
Regional Educational Service Center Directors
College and University Deans and Certification Officers

FROM: Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Commissioner of Education *CRJ*

DATE: September 29, 2022

SUBJECT: Connecticut Approved Pre-Kindergarten (PreK) to Grade Three Core Comprehensive Reading Curricula/Programs

Section 10-14gg of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) establishes the Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success (Center) within the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE). The C.G.S. 10-14ii requires the Center at the CSDE to review and approve at least five reading curricula/programs that must be implemented by all public-school districts effective in the 2023–24 school year.

As required in C.G.S. 10-14gg, the Center at the CSDE convened the Reading Leadership Implementation Council (Council) to inform its work. The Center at the CSDE consulted with the Council to develop the [2022 Guidelines for Open Review Period for Grades Pre-Kindergarten to Three Reading Curricula and/or Programs](#) (2022 Guidelines). From May 4, 2022, to May 25, 2022, districts and publishers submitted curricula/programs for review by the Center at the CSDE.

The CSDE's Review Team consisted of 16 Connecticut literacy experts, CSDE staff, and educational leaders. Several members of the Council also served on the Review Team. In total, the Review Team reviewed and rated the 25 curricula/programs¹ on each of the 25 critical literacy indicators aligned to the science of reading that are listed in the [2022 Guidelines](#). Each curriculum/program was reviewed by at least two reviewers. In addition to the ratings of Connecticut reviewers, other credible and comprehensive literacy material reviews and research findings, including [CURATE](#), [EdReports](#), and the [Colorado Department of Education Advisory List of Instructional Programming](#), were considered before final approval. At this time the PreK curricula/programs submitted for review were not found to meet expectations, however, one is under review as noted below.

Connecticut Approved K–3 Core Comprehensive Reading Curricula/Programs

The following curricula/programs, listed in alphabetical order, fully meet the expectations of the [2022 Guidelines](#) and are approved for use by districts until June 30, 2027:

- American Reading Company – ARC Core® (K–3), (2020);
- Amplify Education Inc. – Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA, 2017);
- Imagine Learning – EL Education Grades K–3, (2017);
- McGraw Hill Education – Wonders, (2020);
- Open Up Resources – EL Education, (2017); and
- Savvas Learning Company – myView Literacy, (2020).

Connecticut Approved Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) to Grade Three Core Comprehensive Reading Curricula/Programs

The following curricula/programs are under review, while they scored in the Meets Expectations range on the 25 indicators, they have not been reviewed by any other credible and comprehensive literacy review process:

- Savvas Learning Company – Three Cheers for Pre–K, (2022); and
- Schoolwide, Inc. – Fundamentals of Reading, Writing, Grammar, Content Literacy, and Foundational Skills.

Each local or regional board of education shall designate a signatory (e.g., superintendent, charter school director) who shall complete the [Required Notification Regarding Connecticut Approved PreK–3 Reading Curricula/Programs Survey](#) (survey) by December 16, 2022. Through this survey, districts will notify the Center at the CSDE as to their intentions regarding the July 1, 2023, implementation of Connecticut Approved K–3 Core Comprehensive Reading Curricula/Programs including:

- implementation of an approved curriculum/program;
- submission of an Application Requesting a Waiver of Connecticut Approved PreK–3 Core Comprehensive Reading Curricula/Programs; or
- request of an extension of one year to implement a Connecticut Approved PreK–3 Core Comprehensive Reading Curricula/Programs by July 1, 2024, due to insufficient resources or funding.

Please note, this survey will also inform the CSDE’s planning for the distribution of ARPA funds designated for the Center and determine if other financial support can be provided to assist districts with curricula/program implementation.

If local or regional boards of education are submitting an Application Requesting a Waiver of Connecticut Approved K–3 Core Comprehensive Reading Curricula/Programs (waiver request), curricula/programs reported by Edreports.org as "does not meet" or curricula/programs that do not meet expectations for use in Connecticut may not be included in the waiver request. The waiver request documents must be submitted to the SDE.LiteracyCenter@ct.gov by February 28, 2023.

For more information regarding the Application Requesting a Waiver of Connecticut Approved PreK-3 Core Comprehensive Reading Curricula/Programs and/or the survey, visit the [Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success \(ct.gov\)](#).

Informational webinars will be forthcoming to assist districts with the information shared in this memo. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Melissa Wlodarczyk Hickey, Interim Director of the Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success, at SDE.LiteracyCenter@ct.gov.

CRT:mwh

¹ Some curricula/programs were submitted separately by different districts. In total, 53 submissions were received. Multiple submissions of the same curricula/programs were consolidated and resulted in 25 unique curricula/programs that were reviewed. Each submission was reviewed by at least two reviewers.