

Report: Reading Committee Curriculum Selection- K-5 Reading Adoption

Committee Recommendation:

National Geographic Cengage, Reach for Reading

Selection Process

In two sessions during October Inservice, all teachers were invited to participate in discussions about reading curriculum. This generated a list of “Must Haves” for a new reading adoption.

Some of those items were:

- A new curriculum – everyone agrees that we are not meeting the needs of our students with what we currently have.
- Aligned to the Common Core State Standards
- Research based
- Appropriate for multi-level classrooms
- Complete – we cannot adopt a program without having all of the components
- Access to online and electronic resources
- K-8 program (*unfortunately none of the programs that met the other requirements offer a k-8 program. Many curriculum companies do offer quality 6-8 programs that will fit the needs of LPSD students.*)

The teachers involved put forth a robust list of available programs. Based on the list of must haves, two were selected for review because they matched all of the “Must Haves.” Those programs were National Geographic Cengage: Reach for Reading (Reach for Reading) and Houghton Mifflin Journeys (Journeys). While at the inservice, teachers viewed Journeys materials that were at Bristol Bay School. We found them to be better than our current program. However, we felt it would be good to explore additional options.

At these sessions the permanent committee was formed. The members are Asha Brown, Matthew Stark, Sara Erickson, Kirsten Buckmaster, and Moon McCarley (coordinator.)

Sample packs of the materials were sent to each committee member for review. Reviewing teachers received the same grade level strands for each curriculum program. Committee members consulted other teachers at their site, reviewed online resources, and did independent research. The committee met several times, on blackboard, to discuss findings. The compiled pros and cons are attached.

The reading committee voted to recommend National Geographic Cengage: Reach for Reading. Four members voted for Reach for Reading and two members said that either would be a benefit to the district. Some of the reasons expressed were:

- Aligned to Common Core State Standards
- Alignment with science and social studies to facilitate integrated, standards based instruction
- It is based on sound research.
- Willingness of the company to meet our financial needs – they deducted a SUBSTANTIAL amount from their original quote to match Journeys.
- Appeal to students and teachers

Additional Recommendations of the Committee

- It is crucial that any curriculum program be fully supported with the purchase of the entire program and quality, ongoing training for all staff.

- The 6th-8th grade curriculum resources are also in need of attention. The current materials are not aligned with standards. If a new program cannot be purchased, then what we do have needs to be updated.

LPSD READING COMMITTEE – 1/24/18

National Geographic Cengage: Reach for Reading Curriculum Review

Reviewers: Matthew Stark, Asha Brown, Sara Erikson, Kirsten Buckmaster, Charlie Gifford

Pros	Cons/Questions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Quality – content, materials, supplementals • High interest content + + • Emphasis on informational text + • The consumables (practice book) are good quality – good graphic organizers • Assessment piece is high quality • The passage lengths and levels are manageable and allow for deeper instruction of strategies, understanding, etc. • Quality vocabulary and grammar instruction • Aligned to other content areas which is very beneficial in the standards based system and for the shortened school year. + + • Will work for distance courses + + most materials are already available electronically • The comprehension instruction is good. The questions are in kid speak. • Explicitly aligned to the standards. • Would work well for multi level instruction • Assessments are clearly aligned with the instruction and define standards addressed • Very user friendly for PowerSchool and record keeping – standards are clearly identified in multiple places • Would work well for new teachers • eAssessments piece would allow us to track data across the district • All consumable materials are available in electronic form so they will not need to be repurchased. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It won't be as good if we don't have all of the components. • Not enough emphasis on explicit phonics instruction in the lower grades. • Additional grammar and writing instruction will be needed. • Training and buy in are a must. • More expensive <p>OVERALL IMPRESSION: The team was impressed with the materials. It's a quality program that could work well for our unique district. All consider it a good option to replace what we currently have. However, it would be very good to get more explicit phonics instruction. Writing and grammar would need to continue to be emphasized outside of reading instruction.</p> <p>NEXT STEPS: Teachers will review the same grade level materials from HM Journeys. A recommendation will be made based on this comparison.</p>

LPSD Reading Curriculum Committee 2/27/18

Houghton Mifflin Journeys Reading Curriculum Review

Reviewers: Matthew Stark, Asha Brown, Sara Erikson, Kirsten Buckmaster, Charlie Gifford

Pros	Cons/Questions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Strong in fiction +▪ A blend of fiction and nonfiction▪ Offers decodable take home texts▪ Format may be familiar▪ Aligned to the common core▪ The student edition references common core standards▪ Has a quick start pacing guide +▪ Vocabulary instruction is strong in the upper grades, especially▪ Is the less expensive option▪ Reading skills are targeted and embedded with each lesson.▪ Rigorous and relevant assessments▪ Good consumable resources (close reader) +▪ Intervention supports are evident	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Not as appealing to students (visually, and in format)▪ Explicit Phonics instruction is lacking (teachers felt this way about both programs)▪ Standards alignment format is overwhelming▪ Not all consumables are available online/electronically. Would be a cost to replace at some point. <p>Overall Impression Journeys is a quality program that will meet the needs of our students. It is standards based and well organized. It would be an improvement over the materials we have now.</p> <p>Next Steps Present findings to Bill Cornell, Ty Mase, and the LPSD School Board. Hopefully they will move forward with the purchase of a new reading curriculum program for the benefit of our students.</p>