



LAKE BLUFF SCHOOLS DISTRICT 65

Excellence in Education, Enthusiasm for Life, Every Student, Every Day.

TO: Dr. Lisa Leali and Members of the Board of Education

FROM: Jackie Tivador, Curriculum Coordinator

DATE: June 24, 2025

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Pilot of Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) by Amplify for Third Grade

Recommendation:

The Lake Bluff Administrative Team is recommending a pilot of Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) by Amplify as an instructional resource for third grade beginning in the 2025–2026 school year.

Background

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing a high-quality, comprehensive literacy experience for all students, we have identified a need to strengthen our foundational reading support at the third-grade level. While our literacy achievement data remains strong overall, we recognize an opportunity for targeted instructional improvement.

Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) is a comprehensive, PreK–5 language arts curriculum developed by Amplify. Grounded in the Science of Reading, CKLA integrates systematic foundational skills instruction with a knowledge-building approach to content in history, science, geography, and literature. The program is designed to build strong readers, writers, and thinkers by connecting reading with learning across content areas.

Following a thorough review of available curricular resources, including alignment with The Reading League Curriculum Evaluation Guidelines, CKLA stood out as the best fit to support both our students and educators. Its alignment with our instructional goals, focus on content-rich knowledge, and integrated literacy design offer a strong foundation to close current gaps in instruction. Additionally, our staff's deep expertise positions them well to adapt and enhance this resource where needed.

We are piloting the newly released third edition of CKLA, which we believe addresses several gaps identified in earlier versions of the program and offers meaningful enhancements. The third edition features streamlined pacing, updated assessment and reporting tools, and a more robust and integrated approach to writing.

While we are not pursuing full fidelity to the CKLA program, we do expect instructional integrity in its use. Teachers will be supported in integrating CKLA into our broader instructional framework while continuing to emphasize our Guaranteed, Viable, and Transparent Curriculum aligned to standards. We recognize that CKLA includes less emphasis on writing and independent reading; our educators will supplement the core program with

additional writing instruction and opportunities for independent and choice reading to ensure a well-rounded literacy experience.

Pending board approval, the district will move forward with:

- Procuring CKLA materials and digital resources for third-grade classrooms
- Providing professional development and planning time for teachers during summer and early fall
- Embedding CKLA into our existing instructional model with intentional adjustments to support writing and student choice in reading

This pilot reflects our continued investment in equipping our educators with high-quality resources while maintaining flexibility to meet the unique needs of our students.

Financial Impact

The cost of implementing a full-year pilot of CKLA for third grade is \$12,300. This includes all necessary print and digital materials, teacher resources, and access to the platform for the 2025–2026 school year

Should the district decide to expand the use of CKLA to additional grade levels in the future, we anticipate a similar initial cost per grade level for implementation. In subsequent years, there would be ongoing annual costs for licensing and digital access to maintain the program. These future costs will be evaluated during the pilot and considered as part of our broader instructional planning and budgeting process.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to let us know.

In partnership,

/s/ Jackie Tivador

Jackie Tivador

Curriculum Coordinator