



WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

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Board of Education

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Lea DeLuca, Director of Instructional Technology
DATE: April 18, 2024
RE: Academic Leadership Council (ALC)/Literacy Update

This memo is:

- ☒ Information only.
☐ Information with a recommendation, and a request for Board approval by vote.

Date by which a Board decision is needed:

Previous memos on this topic can be found:

- ☐ in previous Board packet(s) dated.
☐ or attached to this memo

Basic Information:

This memo is to update the Board of Education on the work of the Elementary Academic Leadership Council (ALC) in regard to literacy in District 33.

Please see the definitions below of the terms/acronyms used in this memo:

Academic Leadership Council (ALC)- A representative group of district personnel and community members that advises and makes recommendations to the board on curriculum and instruction through the approved decision-making processes.

American Reading Company (ARC)- The current resource used in District 33 for literacy instruction from kindergarten through eighth grade.

Subject Area Committee (SAC)- Teacher representatives who write and review curriculum, units, assessments, and resources.

Background/Historical Context:

At the last Board of Education meeting Lea DeLuca and David Burns [presented](#) the District 33 Long Range Literacy Curriculum Plan, the [Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan](#), and the work that David Burns is doing in District 33 to support our K-2 teachers with teaching the foundational skills.

Lea referenced the plan for literacy curriculum work that will occur during the 24-25 school year. This work includes writing literacy units/curriculum, assessments, and evaluating our current literacy resource compared to other literacy resources aligned to reading science. Our current literacy resource in grades K-8 is American Ready Company (ARC). District 33 adopted ARC in 2018. It is best practice that curriculum revisions and resource evaluations occur every 5-6 years to ensure there is alignment with new standards, curricular mandates, and the most up-to-date instructional research. In addition, the current ARC literacy framework we are using does not align with the Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan that was recently released. ARC is working to update its resources accordingly, but there is not a solidified release date. There is also not an anticipated cost for the new framework.

Previous decisions, actions, or parameters that relate to this topic or issue:
<p>The Elementary Academic Leadership Council (ALC) met on Tuesday, April 16th, to approve the literacy plan for the 24-25 school year. The committee has approved the plan to pilot new literacy resources this fall. The Literacy Subject Area Committee (SAC) is a group of teachers representing all grade levels and schools Pre-K through 5th Grade. The ALC has charged the Literacy SAC with utilizing a rubric to evaluate the most highly rated literacy resources available in English and Spanish. The Literacy SAC will meet in May to engage in the evaluation process. By the end of May, the team will determine the final literacy resources that will be piloted by a group of teachers in the fall. The teachers in the pilot group will be trained in June on the resources to ensure they are prepared to start instructing with the pilot resources in September. Throughout the pilot process, teachers will evaluate the resources utilizing the rubric. The goal is to present a recommendation for resource adoption to the Board of Education in March 2025. This timeline will allow for sufficient training and professional development in the spring and summer prior to the start of the 25-26 school year.</p>
Recommendations: