

JESSICA WASHAUSEN

PK-5 CURRICULUM COORDINATOR
302 BELLEFONTAINE DR. WATERLOO, IL 62298
TELEPHONE: 618-939-3453
JWASHAUSEN@WCUSD5.NET



To: Brian Charron, Superintendent
Board of Education

From: Jessica Washausen
PK-5 Curriculum Coordinator

Date: February 23, 2026

Subject: February Board Report

February 2026 Board Report

Kindergarten Teachers from East Alton School District

The East Alton Kindergarten Team had the opportunity to observe IMSE instruction at Zahnow Elementary. By observing these phonics lessons, they gained a firsthand insight into how systematic decoding strategies and multisensory engagement can be effectively integrated to build early literacy foundations. The East Alton Team appreciated the expertise of our classroom teachers!

K-2 ELA Team—Foundational Skills

This February, our K–2 ELA Team focused on vertical alignment by setting clear quarterly goals for foundational literacy standards. By streamlining these expectations, we are making report cards easier for parents to navigate while ensuring a seamless transition between grade levels.

3rd-5th Grade Teacher Training—IAR and ISBE Performance Level Descriptors

Teachers in grades 3–5 deepened their expertise with the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) this month. The team explored the Student Readiness Tool to help students navigate the testing interface and utilized the Digital Library to source retired questions aligned with Evidence Statements. A primary focus was placed on the new ISBE Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs); teachers used this continuum—ranging from Below to Above Proficiency—to audit current ELA and math assessments and ensure they accurately measure student mastery.