

# 7-12 ELA Core Curriculum Adoption:

## Final Recommendation

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### Why:

We do not currently have a Districtwide curriculum for our 7-12 ELA teachers. Some teachers use CommonLit (UHS, RJHS), while other individual teachers use Study Sync (RJHS, AHS). Most DCSD ELA teachers do not use a specific curriculum.

With a Districtwide core curriculum, we will build consistency across the District, provide significant resources for new teachers, improve equality for students (especially those who transfer), and ensure the covering of standards.

### Who:

A review committee was formed. An invitation to the committee was sent out via email to all 7-12 ELA teachers.

We had an excellent response. 9 regular education teachers and 1 SpED teacher joined the committee. These teachers also represent 4 parents.

### How:

The committee met three times. During these meetings we looked at five curriculums: American Literature and Rhetoric, etc, Into Literature, StudySync, CommonLit, and MyPerspectives.

The committee utilized the edReport analysis tool, passing or failing each curriculum through three "gates." The gates cover Continuity, Rigor, and Usability. This is a lengthy process but gives each curriculum a fair analysis.

Additionally, the committee looked at our District's vision of ELA instruction for 7-12 and compared the curriculums.

## **Results:**

### **American Literature and Rhetoric**

This curriculum was deemed too rigorous. It was placed aside and will be looked at in the future as a possible Honors curriculum at UHS.

### **StudySync**

This curriculum did not pass through the three gateways.

### **Into Literature**

The curriculum passed all three gateways, but only partially. It is a strong curriculum, with daily/weekly lessons and extensive support. It was also praised for its user-friendliness.

Key Highlights: It is aligned with New UT ELA standards, its online writing program "Writable" has scaffolded lessons and an editable peer feedback tool, the curriculum has relevant modern student choice assignments, and user-friendly support for teachers and students (Step-by-step how-tos and the Teacher's Corner); we also like the "note and notice" resource.

Key Concerns: Some felt the curriculum is not age-appropriate for high school and is not rigorous enough; some feel it is difficult to navigate; it leaves writing to the end of the unit; and some feel it has a "cookie-cutter" structure that is not engaging.

Example Committee Comment:

*"The reading curriculum is terrific! There are a lot of supports for reading comprehension. However, the writing comes at the end of the reading. The writing "skills" are not taught, nor are they really "writing" (ie, group discussion is listed as a writing skill). The writing is not grade level nor does it allow for progression. There is no integrated grammar. "*

## **References:**

Mesa ISD: Mesa is in their second year of adoption. They do not require teachers to use the curriculum and implementation has been slow. They've found that it is a great resource for teachers to pick and choose from. They especially like "Writable" as it uses AI to grade papers, simplifying grading for teachers. They also appreciate the Tier 2 resources and the placement tests. They have been disappointed in its ability to work within Canvas. It doesn't seem to play well with Grade Pass-back.

Cost: \$488,430

## **CommonLit**

The curriculum passed through the three gateways, but only partially. It is a strong curriculum with many resources, but many on the committee felt it was not robust enough to use as a daily/weekly curriculum.

Key Highlights: Spiral Bound Notebook and Online version capabilities; Close Reads, Most materials are online, online benchmarks; Rigor and wide range of options for students; PD opportunities, Pre- Mid- and Post- tests, and high complexity and rigor, the UT ELA standards will be updated by this fall, and allows for flexibility.

Key Concerns: Lack of color, visuals, graphics, and culturally conscious materials; many things are still “under development;” Many feel this program is not robust enough to guide new teachers.

Example Committee Comment:

*“While CommonLit offers good alignment to state standards, there is not a wide variety of summative assessment options, and there are major holes regarding speaking and listening skills. There would be a high need for supplementation with CommonLit. ”*

References:

Weber School District: WSD has loved CommonLit as it has provided a common data point for them to use across their district. They’ve seen an impressive growth in their ELA scores (according to CommonLit’s benchmark). They feel the curriculum has benefitted their PLCs immensely.

Alpine School District: ASD is in its 2nd year of adoption. They struggle with the implementation of CommonLit 360. They felt there was a steep learning curve in how to adapt the units and lessons. Now that the adaption is complete, they are finding good success with CommonLit and feel it has a lot of possibilities.”

Cost: \$172,500 (6 years)

## **My Perspectives**

The curriculum passed all three gateways and our District vision. It consistently received high marks and is considered a good level of rigor while also providing teachers with great detail and resources for excellent instruction

Key Highlights: The committee felt the rigor is high (some felt a little too high), it has theme analysis elements woven deeply and intricately throughout the units, the writing is taught throughout, and culminates at the end of each unit; it is a robust curriculum with a wide variety of resources, vocabulary instruction, comprehension instruction, writing, and grammar; resources for interventions and extensions are included with a clear breakdown in “how” to teach the standards; it has a substantial grammar piece; differentiation and scaffolding is

outlined well—this makes the reading accessible for low-level readers; and it offers literacy tests (benchmarks) and diagnostics.

Key Concerns: Some feel the formatting is a little too busy with too many words, etc. on each page and not enough blank or marginal space to work in; it is not yet aligned with new UT ELA standards; there is a concern it has too many materials.

Example Committee Comment:

*"I love the rigor, relevance, scaffolding, and blended instruction for all ELA skills and how it builds in very cohesive units throughout the year. The formatting is more user-friendly. It's very comparable to Into Literature in sequencing and blending skills. There are excellent student choices for end-of-unit projects and publishing."*

References:

Nebo SD: Found it easy to implement. The only hold-up they had was with Canvas integration. They appreciate the BOY, MOY, and EOY assessments and would recommend the hardback textbooks for longevity.

Ogden SD: Has been using for 7-years. They especially love the Tier 2 supports built into the curriculum. The rigor is excellent, even a touch high. They did need to cut out a unit in order to fit the curriculum into a year. Their only complaint is that the Realize platform is not as user-friendly as they'd like and it does not truly integrate with Canvas.

Uintah SD: Struggled with implementation for two reasons. First, it didn't work well with Canvas. They had struggles pulling things into Canvas and still don't have things like the add-on graders working. Second, they found the pacing to be VERY quick. The students have gotten used to the expectations and speed, but it is definitely fast and rigorous. USD also found that much of the Realize platform is not teacher-friendly on assignments. For example, the grading in Realize is very small and hard to read and it doesn't alert the teacher when a student submits an assignment. For this reason, they've copied everything over to Canvas. Some things are only available online, such as the 4 different texts students can choose from. So, they've copied these to Canvas as well. The only thing they use in Realize directly is the tests. These are great for data and grouping. To get everything moved to Canvas, they used one PD day per grade twice per year. Despite the issues they've had, we would definitely adopt it again. It has, in one year, raised USD's Utah Aspire scores significantly. The higher expectations have been good. They love the whole class, small group, and individual learning. The content is amazing. There's great social studies content. One caveat: Trade books are only used by the Honors classes as homework (there's no time in the Regular classroom). USD will be adopting it for Science and a math course next year as well.

Cost: \$433,650 (6 years, 7-12th)

**Final Committee Recommendations:**

Publisher: Savvas

Curriculum: My Perspectives

**My Overall Recommendation and Request from the Board:**

MyPerspectives has been found to be a quality program at a good rate. Although not the cheapest option, its price seems fair, and it is a far more robust and comprehensive program when compared to the cheaper option. Overall, the committee was pleased with the program. I recommend adopting MyPerspectives for the next 6 years as well as renewing as deemed appropriate. As we implement, we will need to adjust the pacing to fit our calendar and allow for some flexibility with our teachers. We will also need to allow time for teachers who choose to move items into Canvas.

## Online Resources

To view the online resources for each of the three curriculums, go to:

### **Savvas: My Perspectives**

[www.SavvasRealize.com](http://www.SavvasRealize.com)

Username: DuchesneELA

Password: Welcome1

Corresponding Tier 3 program for Savvas: iLit45

For the Teacher:

TeachiLit.com

Username: ilit45demoi1

Password: password1

OR

Username: ilit45demoi2

Password: password1

For the Student:

LearniLit.com

Username: ilit45s1a OR ilit45s1b

Password: password1

*"Student Logins:*

*I created 2 student logins for you. Please encourage your teachers to create classes and student logins within the teacher login I originally provided. This demo is their playground. [Here are instructions for their reference.](#)*

*7th Grade Student:*

*Username: Roosevelt87*

*Password: Student1*

*9th Grade Student:*

*Username: Eagles62*

*Password: Student1*

**Please note;** *Because this is the newest edition of myPerspectives, there are several digital assets still in development and will be rolled out in the coming days and weeks. We do recommend reviewing Unit 1 for the most populated digital experience. "*

### **CommonLit**

[www.commonlit.org/en/user/login](http://www.commonlit.org/en/user/login)

For Teacher:

Username: [DCSD@cl-test.org](mailto:DCSD@cl-test.org)

Password: Duchesne360!

For Student:

Username: dcsdstudentdemo

Password: Duchesne360!

### **Into Literature**

[www.hmhco.com/ui/login/?connection=91010482](http://www.hmhco.com/ui/login/?connection=91010482)

State: EVALUATOR

District: REVIEW ELA 6-12-91010482

Username: Teacher71\_91010484

Password: E!8rhenium

For student:

Username: Student71\_91010484

Password: E!8rhenium