

**DATE:** April 14, 2024

**TITLE:** Adoption and Purchase of Functional Phonics & Morphology Curriculum for Grades K-5

**TYPE:** Action

**PRESENTER:** Executive Director of Academics and Administrative Services Katie Baskin

**BACKGROUND:**

Through review of our comprehensive reading curriculum, Benchmark Advanced, we determined that a supplemental curriculum to support foundational skills was needed. As we reviewed the MDE approved foundational curriculums, we determined that Functional Phonics & Morphology would be best to support students in grades K-5. To be sure that this program would be beneficial, we piloted it in the primary grades. (where the greatest need is located) We followed the District Pilot Process as we moved through the pilot of the curriculum. Seven teachers from across the elementary buildings piloted the program all year. Tracy Garry, the pilot lead instructional coach, has been supporting staff as they have implemented the pilot curriculum.

**RATIONALE:**

Based on the student academic achievement and the instructional staff input, we have determined that FP&M should be our foundational reading curriculum for grades K-5. Initially we had some reservations about moving forward based solely on the platform used to access the curriculum, but the University of Minnesota, author of the program, has addressed and resolved our concerns. The program allows access to all levels for each instructor, which will be very beneficial to our small group reading as we will use other lessons for remediation. The District Literacy Committee received presentations on the process throughout the year and holds no reservations about implementing this curriculum across K-5 classrooms next year. Summer curriculum work will include determining lesson components that can be removed from Benchmark Advanced, since they will be addressed through Functional Phonics & Morphology instruction.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Department of Teaching & Learning recommends that the district purchase Functional Phonics & Morphology and implement as our foundational reading program grades K-5.