

# MEMO

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**TO:** Superintendent Gina Butters, Board President Paul Widdison, WSD Board Members

**FROM:** Heather Neilson

**DATE:** July 12, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Approval of the Weber School District Early Learning Plan for 2023-2024

The *Weber School District Early Learning Plan for 2023-2024* was submitted to the Utah State Board of Education for pre-approval on July 11, 2023, and did receive that designation. The *Plan* includes both numeracy and early literacy components. Students in grades K-3 will be assessed in both academic areas three times per year. The *Plan* contains information relative to Core instruction in mathematics and literacy, interventions, and support for struggling students. The plan is part of the Early Literacy Grant which covers the costs associated with Instructional Coaches who support students and teachers at each of the 29 elementary schools.

**Early Literacy Goal #1:**

By May 24, 2024, Weber School District will increase the percentage of kindergarten students achieving the benchmark or above on the Acadience Reading Assessment Composite measure from the beginning of the year to the end of the year by 18%. This goal will be achieved through a comprehensive approach that involves progress monitoring, implementing a structured schedule, delivering continuous professional development, and providing job-embedded instructional coaching. This support includes conducting classroom observations, offering feedback on the implementation of an explicit phonemic awareness program, and facilitating letter sound and blending activities. These activities will develop a strong reading foundation and set a pathway for skilled reading throughout the grades.

**Early Literacy Goal #2:**

By May 24, 2024, Weber School District will increase the percentage of First Grade students achieving benchmark and above on the Acadience Reading Assessment Nonsense Word Fluency Whole Words Read from the beginning of year to end of year by 20%. To achieve this goal and ensure future reading success, we employ a comprehensive approach that involves progress monitoring, utilizing a designated schedule, and facilitating continuous professional development. This includes offering job-embedded instructional coaching, conducting classroom observations, and delivering feedback on the implementation of explicit phonics core and intervention programs. By following this framework, we aim to maximize the probability of students reaching or surpassing benchmark scores by the end of the year.

**Early Mathematics Goal:**

By May 26, 2023, Weber School District will maintain the percentage of Kindergarten students who score at or above the benchmark on Acadience Mathematics composite from the beginning of the year to end of year. To meet this goal, we will offer focused and data-driven teaching methods and interventions that cater to individual student requirements. Our goal is to foster a solid understanding of numbers and enhance mathematical vocabulary, promoting greater conceptual fluency. By doing so, we aim to improve the chances of students achieving benchmark scores or higher by the end of the academic year.

The entire *Weber School District Early Learning Plan for 2023-2024* is [attached](#) for your reference. At this time, we respectfully request Board approval of the included *Plan* in order to move to the next step with the Utah State Board of Education.