



# Oak Park Elementary School District 97

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**TO:** Dr. Carol Kelley, Superintendent  
District 97 Board of Education

**FROM:** Dr. Amy Warke, Chief Academic and Accountability Officer  
Dr. Helen Wei, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

**RE:** *Reading Units of Study* and Classroom Library Supplementation

**DATE:** April 11, 2017

**Purpose of the Report:** Approve the purchase of the *Reading Units of Study* (K-2) and Classroom Library Supplementation (K-5)

Our District vision is to **create a positive learning environment for all District 97 students that is equitable, inclusive, and focused on the whole child**. The purchase of the *Reading Units of Study* will assist the district with fulfilling the mission by helping us address the following universal goals:

- **Students and staff feel empowered, valued, and respected.**
- **Every student is challenged and engaged.**  
Each student is known for who they are and their unique needs are met.  
Students lead their own learning and become lifelong learners
- **All students have access to programs and supports to prepare them for success in high school.**  
We support every student to be a critical thinker, ready to contribute to their community.
- **Students feel safe and a sense of belonging.**  
Caring adult-student relationships

In December of 2016, we recommended moving forward with a roll-out of the *Reading Units of Study* from Teachers College Reading and Writing Project in the 2017-2018 school year, which would:

- Support our district's vision and goals and align with our current curricular resource the *Writing Units of Study*
- Continue to strengthen our literacy instruction under a balanced literacy framework
- Promote growth in our students as confident and proficient writers, readers, and thinkers and improved academic indicators
- Provide students with a vehicle for student voice and agency and help instill within them a love for writing, reading, and communicating

At this time, we propose that we make the following purchases to support the implementation of the *Reading Units of Study* for the 2017-2018 school year:

- **Reading Units of Study** in grades K-2 with a small cohort of grade 3-5 teachers in 2017-2018 for the school year (full K-5 implementation in 2018-2019)
  - Vendor: Heinemann
  - Cost: will not exceed \$54,237.60
- **Classroom Libraries Supplementation** in grades K-5, purchasing additional books to ensure classroom libraries are diverse and well-stocked for Reading Workshop (fill in as needed, following a classroom library inventory)
  - Vendor: Steps to Literacy
  - Cost: will not exceed \$966,151.22

This April, the K-5 Word Study Committee is also meeting to review Word Study materials and make recommendations on a timeline for the adoption of these materials. Word Study materials will allow students to work on skills, such as of phonological awareness, letter knowledge, letter-sound relationships, spelling patterns, high-frequency words, word meaning and vocabulary, word structure, word-solving actions. We will return to the Board at a future date, based on the Word Study Committee's recommendations for materials and a timeline.

To support the implementation of the Reading Units of Study for K-2 teachers, we have tentatively scheduled half-day sessions for K-2 teachers in May for initial professional learning in the *Reading Units of Study* and Reading Workshop, pending Board action. We anticipate continuing to work with our external coaches who would help support our in-district instructional coaches to provide on-site coaching and support to teachers, as well as would help provide professional learning session for teachers in *Reading Units of Study* during the 2017-2018 school year.