

## **January 2026 CLSD Update**

### **1. Community Partnerships & Early Literacy**

We are excited to announce a collaborative effort to bolster foundational reading skills in our community.

- **Early Literacy Classes:** In partnership with WAVE and the Petersburg Medical Center (PMC), we will be launching specialized classes designed to support our youngest learners and their families. This partnership leverages local health and advocacy resources to ensure students are "ready to read" before they enter the classroom.

### **2. Technology & Intervention: Amira AI**

To provide high-frequency, personalized support for our students, the district is moving forward with the implementation of Amira.

- **What is Amira?** Amira is an AI-powered reading assistant that listens to students read aloud, assesses their fluency, and provides real-time "micro-interventions" (coaching) when they struggle with specific words or sounds.
- **Implementation Scope:** Amira is being used within intervention groups and general education classrooms for the following grades: 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 7th, and 8th.
- **Impact:** This tool allows teachers to receive diagnostic data instantly while ensuring students in intervention groups get 1-on-1 reading practice even when a specialist is working with another student.

### **3. Upcoming Events & Outreach**

We have several district-wide initiatives designed to engage the community in our literacy goals:

- **“One Book, One District”:** This upcoming program aims to build a shared reading experience across all grade levels and households. Stay tuned for the announcement of this year’s selected title.
- **Math Literacy Month on KFSK:** Throughout the month, we will be partnering with KFSK to highlight the intersection of math and literacy. Listeners can expect segments focused on "math talk," storytelling through numbers, and tips for parents to integrate math literacy into daily routines.

## November CLSD Update 2025

We're excited to share an update on our progress supported by the CLSD Grant, focusing on significant advancements in our district's literacy initiatives. We are deeply involved in data-driven planning and have a major community event approaching!

### Upcoming Event: Falling For Reading Literacy Night 🍂

Mark your calendars! We invite the entire school board and community to our "Falling For Reading" Literacy Night:

- Date: Monday, November 13th
- Time: 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM
- Location: High School

This will be a major event showcasing student engagement, featuring activities across all grade levels, led by a dedicated team of 5 Elementary and 11 MS/HS teachers.

Literacy Night Activities by Age Group:

Grade Band	Activity Examples
K–2	Tricky Word HopScotch, Tricky Word Tic Tac Toe, Roll a story, Silly Sentences
3–5	Picture Prompt Collaborative Story, Describe the Mystery Object (Descriptive Writing), Story Reading
6–12	Fact or Fiction Headline, Giant Scrabble, Creative Writing, Mini Debate
K–12 (All Students)	Book Interest Survey, Book Cover Art Contest, Favorite Book Graffiti Wall, Reading Cafe (Hot Chocolate & Cookies)

Major Reveal: At the Literacy Night, we will announce whether our district has successfully reached our goal of 100,000 pages read! Prizes and awards will be distributed to celebrate this achievement.

## Teacher Leadership and Data-Driven Instruction

Our commitment to improving student outcomes through the CLSD Grant remains strong.

- Professional Coaching: We were thrilled to host Karen Grose last month. She provided valuable coaching to our teacher leaders focusing on implementation strategies for both the ILT and CLSD grants.
- Data Focus: All levels—Elementary, Middle, and High School—have established student data-focused goals. Teachers are actively using this data within their Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to evaluate current performance and strategically plan instruction to best meet individual student needs.
- Continued Support: We are continuing our planning and collaboration with Karen Grose to embed these effective, data-informed practices across the district.

We look forward to seeing you at the Literacy Night on November 13th to celebrate our students' hard work and our teachers' dedication!

10/21/25

### Literacy Initiatives Progress:

- **"Falling for Reading" Challenge:** The program is progressing well:
  - Middle School students have read **53,477 pages**.
  - High School students have read **8,820 pages**.
- **Literacy Words of the Day on KFSK:** This initiative is receiving positive feedback, and the district is grateful for the partnership with KFSK.

### Upcoming Events & Opportunities:

- **Parent Literacy Call-In:**
  - **When:** This Thursday, 3:45 PM - 4:45 PM.
  - **Details:** Karen Grose from NIET and a district representative will be hosting a call-in for parents to ask literacy questions. Parents are encouraged to spread the word and participate.
- **District Community Wide Celebration:**
  - **When:** November 13th.
  - **Schedule:**
    - **5:00 PM - 5:30 PM:** Dinner provided at the elementary school for K-5th grade students.

- **5:30 PM - 7:30 PM:** Main celebration with games and awards at the high school.
- **Volunteers:** 14 teacher volunteers have generously offered their time to help with the event.
- **Preschool Director Meeting:**
  - Last Thursday, the district met with all preschool directors.
  - A sample lesson on the "sounds first approach" was provided.
  - The district provided books and other materials, answered questions, and offered the opportunity for directors to take **pre-school LETRs** and attend the **Science of Reading Symposium** when dates become available

We are continuing to provide **Literacy Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)** for our staff and are dedicated to further developing a **common literacy language** across the district. We will continue to move forward with these key initiatives to improve literacy for all students.

--

Mara, let me know if this needs to be in a different format