

# Board of Education Quick Report

Troy CCSD 30C May 2017

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## **Action Plan for Standardized Cursive Writing Instruction**

Troy 30C utilizes the **Zaner-Bloser** method of handwriting instruction. An overview of this method is provided below.

**Zaner-Bloser Handwriting** is an engaging and colorful PreK–4 program that integrates with any language arts curriculum and uses academic language and modeling to teach handwriting.

Program materials for grades PreK through grade 4 support students as they develop handwriting readiness skills, learn to write manuscript and letter forms, and build handwriting legibility and fluency.

- Pre-K through Grade Two use the Manuscript version M
- Grades Three and Four use the Cursive Writing version

**Zaner-Bloser Handwriting** lessons follow a clear, three-step instructional plan—Model, Practice, Evaluate—and can be taught within the structure of the daily balanced literacy model which allows teachers to fit this key literacy skill into their daily classroom instruction.

Teachers can differentiate instruction using a variety of targeted activities:

- Support for English Language Learners at varying levels of language acquisition
  - Tips from an Occupational Therapist to develop gross- and fine-motor skills
  - Handwriting Coach activities for kinesthetic, auditory, and visual reinforcement
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The Student Edition guides students through a proven, step-by-step process for learning legible handwriting.

- Letter models with arrows clearly show stroke sequence.
- Stroke descriptions are described in academic language all students can easily understand and remember.
- Students practice writing on grade-appropriate guidelines directly beneath models that both left- and right-handed students can easily see.
- Students self-evaluate their handwriting using the Keys to Legibility—a simple rubric for evaluating the shape, size, spacing, and slant of handwriting.
- Students scan Handwriting Tutor QR codes with a mobile device to view animated letter models and how-to videos if needed.

After collaborating as an administrative team we have decided to enhance our current handwriting program to include the following:

- Manuscript and Cursive writing will be instructed daily in all elementary classrooms starting in Grades 1 and 2 with Manuscript and moving to Cursive writing in Grades 3 and 4
- Along with the daily work, practice handwriting sheets may be sent home with students as homework.
- As a culminating fourth grade activity, each student will compose a formal letter written in cursive to their future fifth grade teachers.
- This letter will include the student's formal signature and will be delivered to WBO via the student academic folder.

The evaluation of student progress will be achieved as follows:

- Students will be evaluated on their ability to read cursive, write cursive and sign their name.
- Cursive Writing will be evaluated using the Standards Key of “Achieved, Progressing, Limited Progress and No Progress”.
- Handwriting is currently graded on the Kindergarten report card under the Work Habits section of the standards based report card.
- Manuscript (Grades 1 and 2) and Cursive Writing (Grades 3 and 4) will be added and graded on the Grades 1-4 report card under the Work Habits section of their standards based report card.