



**WEST CHICAGO
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D33 Leman Literacy Pilot Recommendation

Presented by: Jenny Brunke
Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning

March 2025

Committee Goals



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Leman Middle School Long-Range Plan

SUBJECTS	Jan 24- Jun 24	Aug 24- Jan 25	Feb 25- Jun 25	Aug 25- Jan 26	Feb 26- Jun 26	Aug 26- Jan 27	Feb 27- Jun 27	Aug 27- Jan 28	Feb 28- Jun 28	Aug 28- Jan 29	Feb 29- June 29
Literacy		Research resources		Pilot resources as appropriate	Continuation of pilot and creation of written curriculum	Creation of instructional templates & resources	Implementation, validation, and adjustments	Implementation, validation, and adjustments			

TIMELINE**24-25 LMS Literacy Timeline**

- Professional learning and discussion (Subject Area Committee)
- Initial resource review (T&L and Literacy Consultant)
- Finalization of resource review tool (Subject Area Committee)
- Company demos (Subject Area Committee)
- Resource recommendation (Subject Area Committee / ALC)



Initial Resource Considerations: Teaching and Learning

The following factors were considered during the initial resource evaluation

- Ratings on Ed Reports
- Resources utilized by surrounding districts
- Resources recommended by the Knowledge Matters Campaign
- Interest in resources from the Subject Area Committee



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Resources Considered

- Amplify ELA 6-8
- Core Knowledge Language Arts
- myPerspectives
- CommonLit 360
- StudySync
- HMH
- EL Education
- Wit and Wisdom
- Arts and Letters
- Reading Reconsidered
- Fish Tank Plus ELA



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Literacy Resource Review Tool



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District 33 LMS Literacy Resource Review Tool

This document is designed to support the educators, instructional leaders, and community members of District 33 in determining the degree to which an ELA curriculum aligns with current evidence-based principles and practices in the field of literacy instruction and assessment. This tool borrows heavily from [The Knowledge Matters Review Tool](#), a trusted guide utilized across the nation for evaluating K-8 ELA curriculum. It also draws on aspects from [The Reading League's Curriculum Evaluation Guidelines: Reviewer Workbook](#) that are applicable to grades 6-8.

The *District 33 Curriculum Review Tool* is structured in two sections. The first section introduces the five literacy accelerators, which concisely encapsulate what matters most for literacy development. These five accelerators serve to set the overall tone for what an evidence-based curriculum should contain. The second section addresses curricular components related to knowledge, language, comprehension, composition (writing), and ease of use.

Each section contains a description of evidence-aligned practices and principles along with an opportunity to rate each dimension as strong, moderate, or weak. In addition to evidence-aligned practices, most sections contain red flags that are cause for concern when present within a curriculum.

Initial Resource Review: T&L & Literacy Consultant

Category	W&W	Amplify	MyPerspectives	CommonLit
Laser-like Focus on What Matters Most	6/6	6/6	6/6	4/6
Communal Close Reading of Content-Rich Challenging Texts	9/9	9/9	8/9	9/9
Development of High-Value Academic Language	8/9	8/9	9/9	7/9
Reading Organized Around Conceptually Coherent Text Sets	9/9	9/9	5/9	5/9
Regular Discussions Grounded in Texts and Topics to Build Knowledge	9/9	8/9	9/9	8/9
A Volume of Writing to Build Knowledge	9/9	9/9	8/9	9/9
Targeted Supports	15/18	14/18	15/18	11/18
Ease of Enacting Curriculum	8/9	8/9	5/9	8/9
Total Points	73/78	71/78	65/78	61/78



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Invitation to Demo: T&L and LMS Admin



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- Savvas: myPerspectives
- Amplify: 6-8 ELA
- CommonLit 360
- Great Minds: Arts & Letters

2025 update to Great
Minds: Wit and Wisdom



Staff Invited To Resource Demos

West Chicago Elementary School District 33
ELA Curriculum Resource Demonstrations
February 6, 2025



Committee Members

Committee Member	Position	Committee Member	Position
Lea Deluca	Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning	Carolyn Lekousis	7th Grade Teacher
Jenny Brunke	Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning	Victoria Studer	8th Grade Teacher
Hannah Christie	Assistant Principal of Lemay Middle School	Karoline Giza	8th Grade Teacher
Megan Quintana	Instructional Coach	Gabriela Mancera	LBS1
Janet Ayala	Instructional/MLL Coach	Megan Miller	LBS1
Jessica Snyder	6th Grade Teacher	Matt Wood	7th Grade SS Teacher
Sara Peace	7th Grade Teacher	Jen Smith	6th Grade Science Teacher
Tasha French-Harbourne	7th Grade Teacher	Jen Szwaya	Lead Teacher A&E

Roles and Responsibilities

During and immediately following the demos, ensure each component on the [evaluation tool](#) is rated as “strong,” “moderate,” or “weak.” If you are unsure about a certain category, you may leave it unrated. Note any red flags present. You may also write in any additional notes you find appropriate. The evaluation tool has been shared with each company ahead of time. During the demonstrations, you may ask specific questions related to the review tool if you do not feel adequate information has been provided.

Agenda

February 6th: Demo Day!

Company Demos

4 companies came to demo

- Savvas: myPerspectives
- Amplify: ELA 6-8
- CommonLit 360
- Great Minds: Arts and Letters



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- Each company was informed of our programming, goals and evaluation process ahead of time
- Each company provided physical resources/demo account access ahead of time to examine in addition to their presentations
- Each company provided a one hour demo for their resources
- Time for Q&A was included throughout or at the end of each presentation
- The SAC utilized the Curriculum Resource Evaluation Tool as they took notes and asked questions
- Team members were encouraged to take with them any resources they wished to examine further

Team Feedback: myPerspectives

Pros

Structure:

- 9th-10th grade units are available
- Organized around essential questions
- Strong integration of grammar and vocabulary instruction throughout
- Great set up for co-teaching

Differentiation:

- Provides student data regarding success aligned to reading and writing standards
- Significant differentiation

Additional Comments

- Great for test prep
- Language supports are available in 100 languages
- Designed for a 40-50 minute block
- Allows time for Tier II
- Easily supports WICOR strategies

Cons

- Novel studies are an add-on

myPerspectives[®]
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Team Feedback: Amplify

Pros

Structure

- Knowledge building topics extend from elementary (if adopted)
- Novel studies are built in

Differentiation

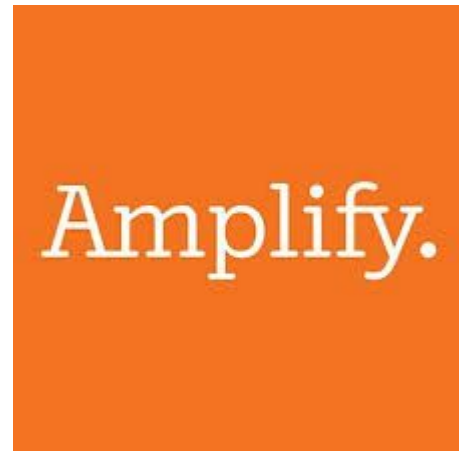
- Differentiation levels can be adjusted in real time
- Flex days for targeted support
- Fluency practice built in

Additional Comments

- Caregiver hub
- Online library of 700+ lessons to support professional learning

Cons

- No 9th-10th grade units
- Too much screen time
- Auto grading for writing
- Differentiation meets students where they are - but does not push



Team Feedback: CommonLit 360

Pros

Structure

- 9th grade standards are addressed
- Designed around essential questions
- Flexibility offered

Additional Comments

- Great supports with teaching points and discussion questions
- Option to anonymously share student answers

Cons

- Possibly too much freedom
- Too much planning necessary, especially in co-taught classrooms
- No built in differentiation
- Writing grades are still too subjective
- Vocabulary and grammar is light
- Side by side translations rather than MLL supports
- Designed to be used digitally
- Hard to know what this resource looks like with no print materials
- Must print or order many items separately
- Basically what we already have free access to



Team Feedback: Arts and Letters

Pros

Structure

- Knowledge building curriculum - but we don't use it in elementary so it could be difficult
- Embedded instructional routines - predictable patterns
- Fine art is incorporated

Differentiation

- Includes Prologues to front load knowledge

Additional Comments

- Low screen time

Cons

- No 9th-10th grade option
- New and not everything is out yet - scope and sequence not yet released
- Won't read novels cover to cover
- Does not align to current science and social studies curriculum
- Seems more like a concept than a fully developed resource

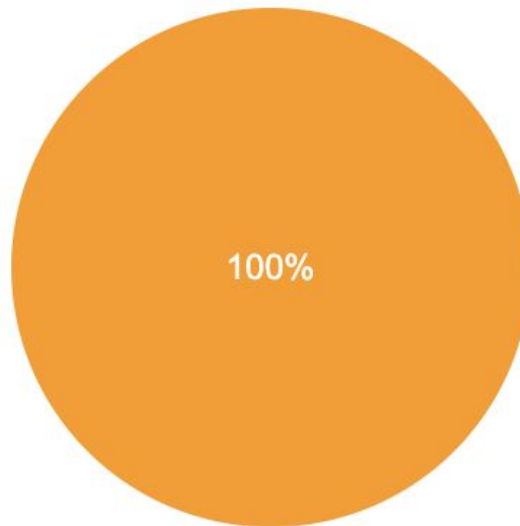


SAC Survey Results: Feb 12th (Emergency Learning Day)

Please select your first choice of pilot resource. Please do not select a resource more than once.

10 responses

“This resource provides everything a teacher at any level needs to provide rigorous instruction. There are also built in supports for diverse learners and a meaningful way to use technology for feedback and learning.”



- Amplify ELA
- CommonLit 360
- myPerspectives
- Arts and Letters



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“I think myPerspectives best aligns to our school and district's mission and vision. It has all of the elements that we are striving towards. I think it will boost our growth even more and will be intuitive for teachers.”

“MyPerspectives has everything in an all in one spot, meeting the needs of all students in a universal design as well as incorporating grammar/writing/vocab in its lesson without it being an afterthought. It's hybrid ability is seamless, in which I do not feel like I am losing any content if I do paper or online teaching.”

Recommendation

Literacy Subject Area Committee Meeting- February 12th

- Consensus on recommendation to the Academic Leadership Council
- 10/10 recommendation for myPerspectives as first choice

Academic Leadership Council- February 11th

- Consensus on recommendation to the BOE
- 10 Thumbs Up, 0 Thumbs Down

Recommendation

- One year pilot of myPerspectives during the 25-26 SY
- Recommendation for adoption would occur Winter/Spring of 2026

Pilot cost = \$2,527.20



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Next Steps

- The Lemman Literacy Subject Area Committee will finalize a LMS specific scope and sequence
- The Department of Teaching and Learning will create a pilot handbook
- Professional development will be provided for the pilot teachers



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Thank you!

Jenny Brunke

Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning



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