



Livonia Public Schools

Academic Services

DATE: 5/9/2023
TO: Theresa O'Brien, Chief Academic Officer
FROM: Jen Cory, Elementary Curriculum Coordinator
SUBJECT: Morphology Plus Training

Good Morning,

I would like to recommend that third and fourth grade classroom teachers participate in the Morphology Plus training provided by IMSE. Below is a rationale for this request.

In February of 2020, we received a grant for \$300,000 to provide training to our teachers on Orton-Gillingham's multisensory approach to teaching phonemic awareness and phonics. We utilized those grant funds, in addition to Title II, RESA grants and general funds, to train all our K-2 teachers and support staff. This approach to teaching phonics replaced Words Their Way at those levels and the response has been very positive.

Now that our K-2 teachers have completed the Comprehensive Orton-Gillingham training from IMSE that focused on phonics, phonological awareness, high-frequency words, and vocabulary, we are looking to improve our instruction in morphology at the third and fourth grade level. IMSE has a 30-hour course that provides a complete understanding of morphology (forms of words), fluency, vocabulary (word meaning strategies), and comprehension and how to apply it in the classroom. Morphology Plus training would support third and fourth grade teachers in the natural progression of instruction around vocabulary and word study.

The *Essential Instructional Practices in Literacy*, which is our research-informed practice guide, strongly recommends daily instruction around vocabulary. Vocabulary knowledge is critical for literacy development. Currently, Tier 2 (academic) and Tier 3 (discipline-specific) vocabulary is taught through the integrated-learning modules and guided reading instruction, but it is critical to provide systematic instruction in morphology to further develop students' vocabulary skills. This is indicated by Essential Practice #7: Intentional and ambitious efforts to build vocabulary

and content knowledge, Bullet #5: teaches morphology (i.e., meaning of word parts), including common word roots, inflections, prefixes, and affixes.

Please consider supporting Morphology Plus training for LPS third and fourth grade teachers.

Warm regards,

Jen Cory

734-744-2565

In district: 42565

jcory@livoniapublicschools.org