



River Forest  
Public Schools

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## MEMO

Date: 7/17/2023  
To: Dr. Ed Condon, Superintendent  
From: Dr. Alison Hawley, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction  
RE: District 90 Literacy Committee Timeline

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Attached please find the District 90 Literacy Committee Timeline for the English language arts materials review and selection process. The following describes the District 90 Literacy Committee structure, as well as the goals and objectives outlined on the attached timeline:

### **Committee Structure**

The District 90 Literacy Committee is intended to be comprised of English language arts classroom teachers, special education teachers, reading specialists, instructional specialists, and administrators. The goal is to ensure that committee representation spans all grade levels, incorporates both middle school and elementary perspectives, and ensures a broad consensus for decision-making. The Literacy Committee will meet after school monthly.

### **Review of Mission/Vision and Current Research**

The District 90 Literacy Committee will begin its work by reviewing the mission and vision statement and evaluate it relative to current literacy practices across the district. The team will also review the latest peer-reviewed research to identify evidence-based classroom practices that support student success. The mission and vision statement may be revised to reflect the latest developments in literacy instruction.

### **Review of Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Literacy Framework**

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is set to release its first Literacy Framework no later than January 1, 2024. A draft version of the framework has been released to the public, and feedback sessions have been scheduled for public comment. A listening session was recently held in Chicago on Monday, July 10, 2023. The proposed Literacy Framework is organized into the following five sections:

- Vision and Purpose
- Framework for Effective Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction
- Educator Professional Learning and Development
- Framework for Effective Leadership, Systems of Support, and Implementation Considerations

- Tools and Resources

Once the final version is released, the committee will review it in its entirety, evaluate District 90 instructional practices relative to the framework recommendations, and identify areas that merit development or enhancement. The committee will also identify any additional resources the framework recommends if they had not been previously identified.

### **Materials Review Process**

The Curriculum Office will identify high-quality instructional materials through Ed Reports, exploration of the marketplace, and recommendations from comparable school districts. The committee will re-vet the instructional materials currently in use, approximately five literacy programs, and instructional materials that target specific literacy skill development.

The committee intends to use the rubric being developed by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). Through the vetting process, the two highest scoring resources will be identified for the classroom pilot process.

### **Pilot Process**

The District 90 Literacy Committee will solicit two classroom teachers from each grade level at each school to participate in the classroom pilot. It is not a requirement that teachers be on the committee to be eligible to participate. Pilot teachers will implement one unit from each program identified through the vetting process, gather quantitative and qualitative data, and survey students for their feedback. The information will be analyzed and presented to the District 90 Literacy Committee to help determine a final materials recommendation to be shared with the Board of Education.