
Board of Education

ACTION

TITLE: Consider Approval of Instructional Materials Adoption for 2021-2027

DATE: May 24, 2021

RESPONSIBLE ADMINISTRATOR: Martin Mahan
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction
Dr. Mary Ann Johns
Director of Elementary Education

VISION 2023 STRATEGY: 3. Instruction

BACKGROUND/CONSIDERATIONS:

Per the Arkansas Department of Education, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE): The Right to Read Act, amended by the Arkansas Legislature in 2019, requires “curriculum programs that are supported by the science of reading and based on instruction that is explicit, systematic, cumulative, and diagnostic. In response to that directive, a K-5 committee was established, and in consideration of the instructional differences between the lower and upper grades, the committee was divided into two sub-committees representing the grade bands of K-2 and 3-5. Each sub-committee was composed of teachers, content coordinators, parents, students, community representatives, teacher college representatives, and educational administrators. The committee met throughout the 2020-21 school year to examine available and relevant instructional resources, and to review data collected through on-site piloting of the materials in district classrooms.

The K-5 Core Literacy Program Selection Committee recommends the purchase and use of **Benchmark Literacy** as instructional resources for core literacy for the six-year adoption period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2027.

VISION 2023 STRATEGIES - Career Planning: Develop and implement education and career pathways so that each student graduates with a viable plan and relevant skill set for his or her future. **Equity:** Develop and implement a system-wide plan to provide all students with the resources they need to optimize their learning. **Instruction:** Design, develop and implement programs to promote rigor, relevance, collaboration, critical- thinking skills and learning environments designed to meet each student’s unique needs and aspirations. **Learning Environment/Facilities:** Align resources, facilities and technology strategically and equitably across the district to maximize security and enhance the learning environment. **Staffing:** Recruit and retain highly-qualified faculty, staff and administration. **Technology:** Provide appropriate technology that is consistently available, effectively supported and equitably distributed for group and individual instruction. **Wellness:** Develop and train empathetic and nurturing employees to be sensitive to and supportive of the needs of all children and families.

RECOMMENDATION:

The administration recommends that the Board approve **Benchmark Literacy** as core literacy instructional resources to be used in K-5 classrooms during the six-year adoption period.

If the Board agrees, the motion would read:

Move to authorize the adoption of the recommended instructional resources for K-5 core literacy.

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