



Expect  
**More.**

# Elementary Literacy Curriculum Adoption Proposal

Presented to the School Board  
March 4, 2025



# The Case for Two Curriculums:

## Foundational Skills & Knowledge Building

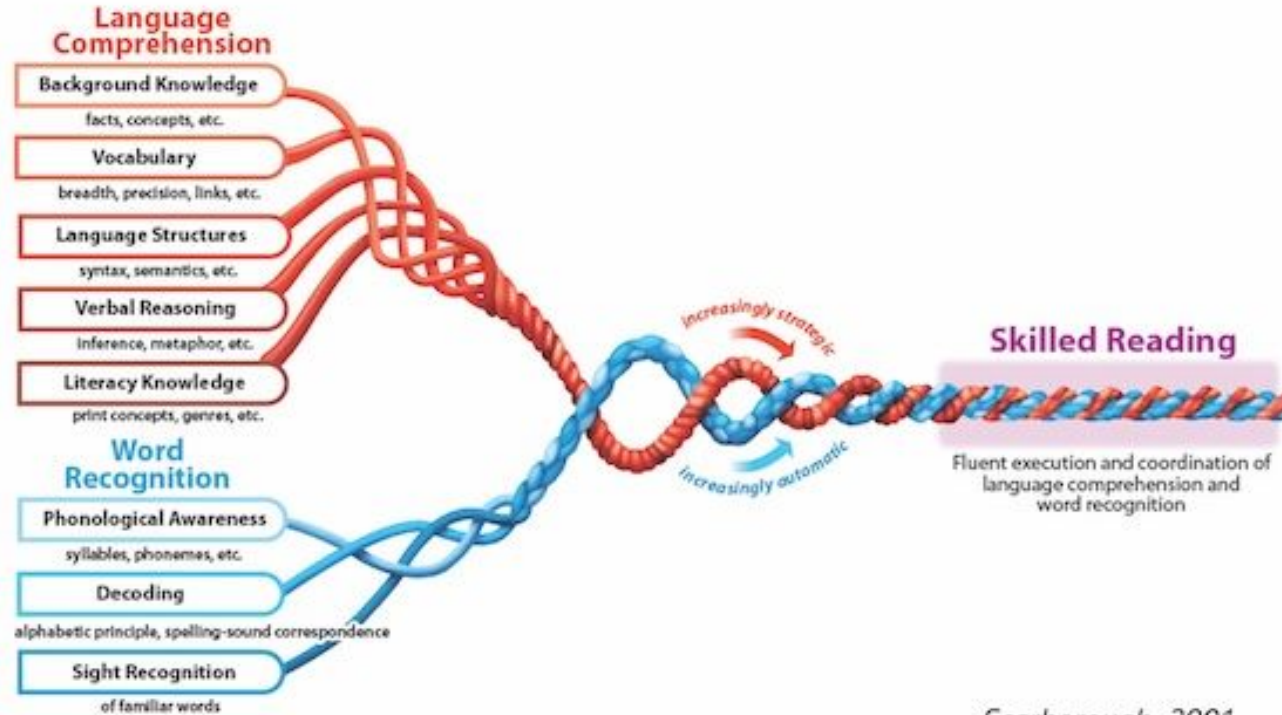
Strong foundation in  
decoding

+

Rich content  
knowledge

=

Comprehension and  
critical thinking



Scarborough, 2001



# Foundational Skills: Learning to Read

## Kindergarten - Grade 2

Ensures students master decoding, phonemic awareness, and fluency

## Grade 3-5

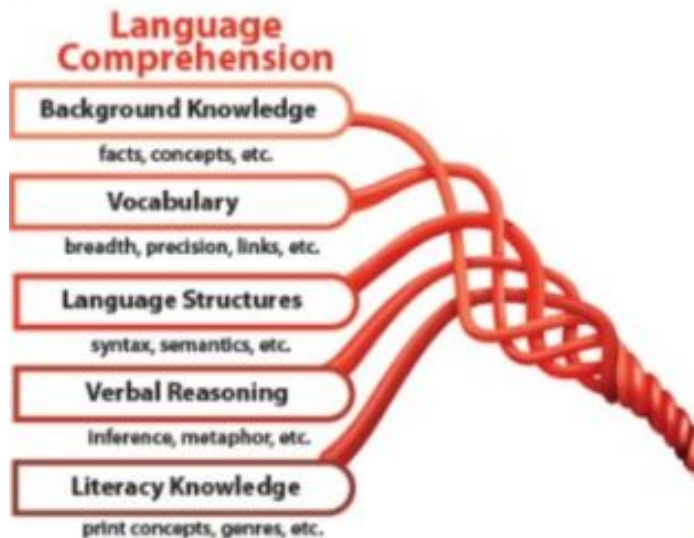
Support older students in **reading accuracy, fluency, and vocabulary growth** by focusing on morphology—the study of word parts (prefixes, suffixes, roots)





# Knowledge Building: Reading & Writing

Develops **comprehension, vocabulary, background knowledge, and writing skills** by exposing students to rich, meaningful texts that deepen their understanding of language and literacy



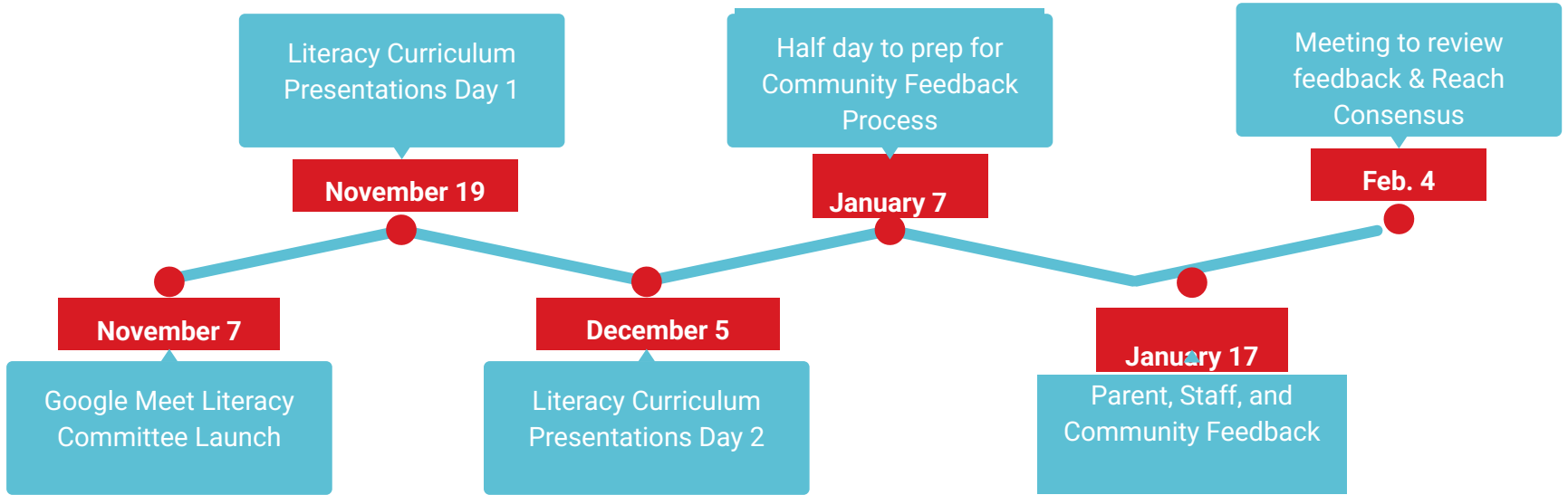
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# Questions



# Committee Timeline





# The Selection Process



**Purpose:** A thorough, collaborative process to select the best literacy curriculum for our students.

**Step 1:** Forming the Selection Committee

**Step 2:** Reviewing Curriculum Presentations

**Step 3:** Narrowing Down the Options

**Step 4:** Deep Dive into Finalists

**Step 5:** Gathering Staff & Community Input

**Step 6:** Reviewing Feedback & Reaching Consensus





# Staff & Community Feedback Summary

- 94.6% of staff and community surveys endorse adopting Benchmark Advance.
- 55.7% of staff and community surveys support the committee's foundational skill recommendations.



# Recommendation: Foundational Skills K-2

## UFLI Foundations

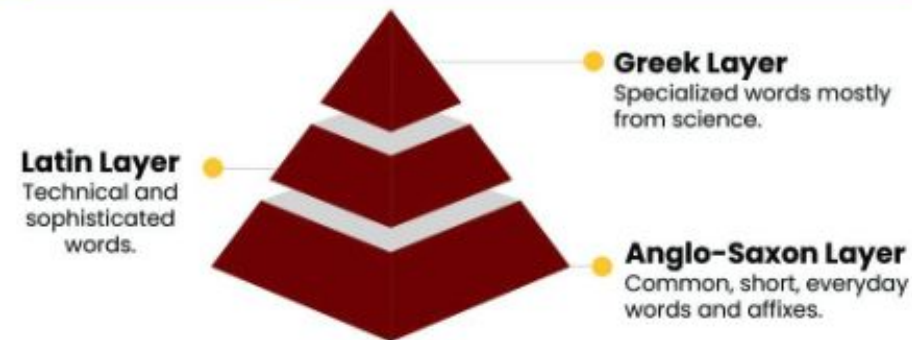
- ✓ Explicit & Systematic Instruction
- ✓ Aligned with the Science of Reading
- ✓ Supports All Learners
- ✓ Engaging, Multi-Sensory Approach
- ✓ Consistent & Easy to Implement
- ✓ Data-Driven Progress Monitoring





# Recommendation: Foundational Skills 3-5

## Layers of English



## Functional Morphology

- ✓ Explicit & Systematic Instruction
- ✓ Aligned with the Science of Reading
- ✓ Supports All Learners
- ✓ Engaging, Multi-Sensory Approach
- ✓ Consistent & Easy to Implement
- ✓ Data-Driven Progress Monitoring





# Recommendation: Knowledge Building

## Benchmark Advance

- ✓ Comprehensive Literacy Approach
- ✓ Rich, Diverse Texts
- ✓ Focus on Critical Thinking & Writing
- ✓ Differentiated Instruction
- ✓ Teacher Support & Professional Development
- ✓ Digital Integration

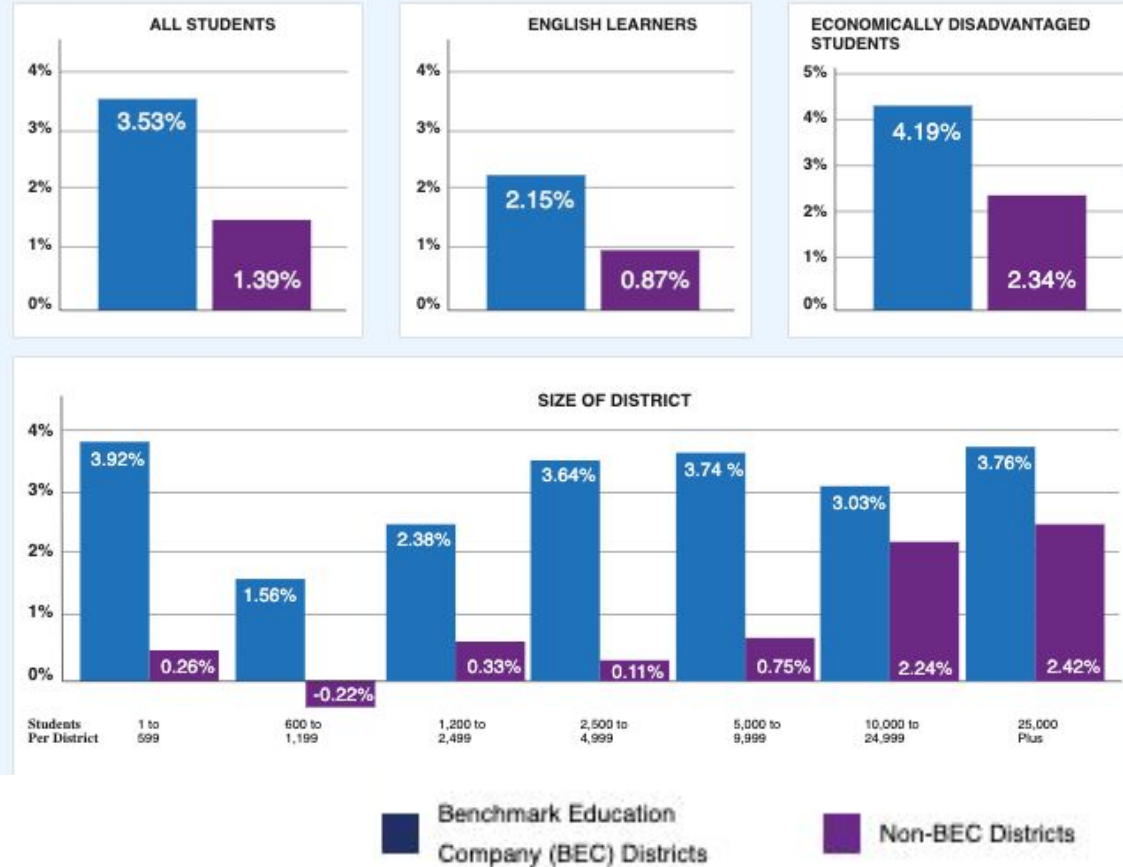




Recommendation:  
Knowledge  
Building

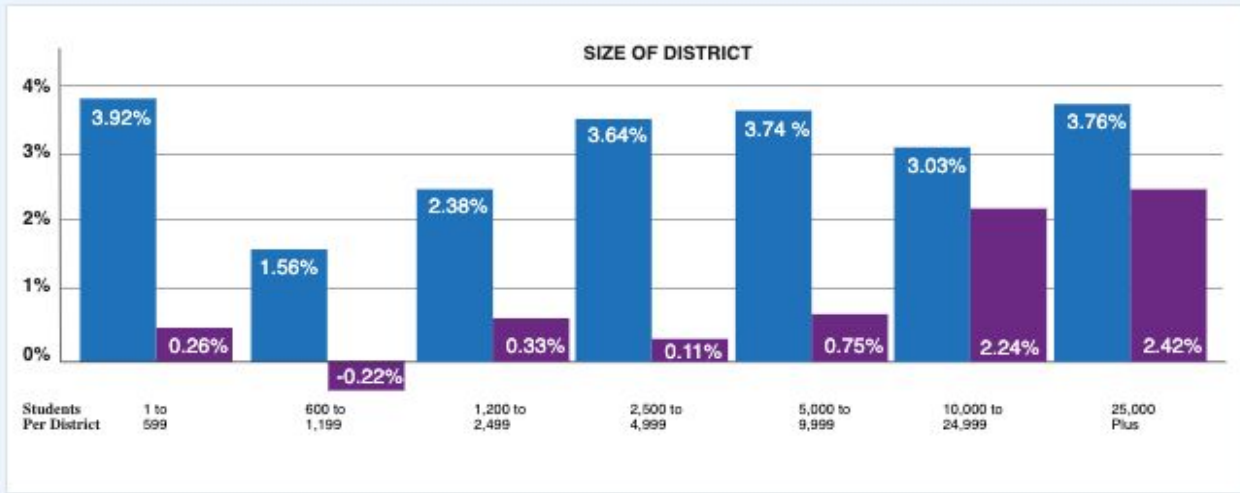
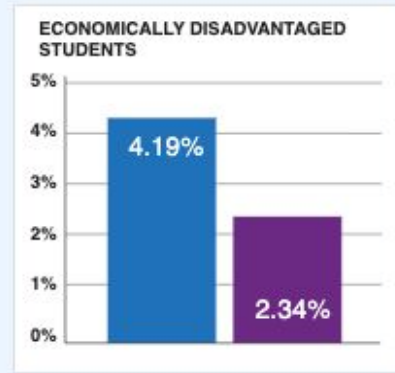
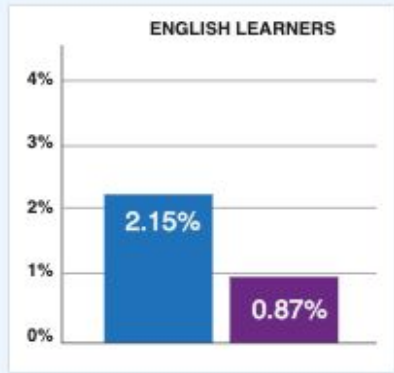
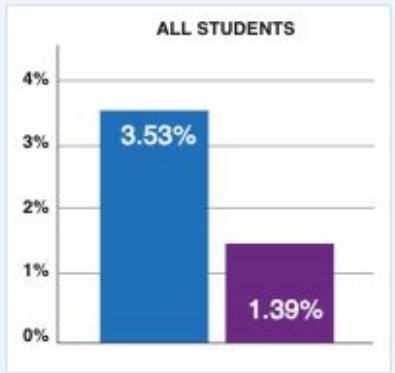
## Nationwide, Students Using Benchmark Advance Showed 2.5x Growth in Proficiency

Sustained Gains Across Demographics, Including English Learners and Disadvantaged Students



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**What This Means for Stillwater:**

**3.7% growth** in the number of students grades 3-5 reaching proficiency would result in approx. **65 more students** reaching proficiency per year.



# Recommendations and Why

|              | Foundational Skills   | Knowledge Building   |
|--------------|---|--|
| Year One     | <p>Adopt K-2 UFLI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Focus:</b> Training, foundational implementation, and baseline data collection.</li></ul>                    | <p>Adopt K-5 Knowledge Building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Focus:</b> Training, foundational implementation, and baseline data collection.</li></ul> |
| Year Two     | <p>Adopt 3-5 Morphology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Focus:</b> Training, foundational implementation, and baseline data collection.</li></ul>              | <p>Refinement &amp; Acceleration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Focus:</b> Deepening instructional effectiveness and responding to data.</li></ul>       |
| Years Three+ | <p>Mastery &amp; Sustained Growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Focus:</b> Independent student success, instructional mastery, and sustainability.</li></ul> |  |

# Implementation Planning

|              | Foundational Skills   | Knowledge Building   |
|--------------|---|--|
| Year One     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Train teachers</li><li>● Implement curriculum with fidelity</li><li>● Collect baseline student data and initial progress monitoring</li></ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Align Benchmark Advance curriculum with state standards</li><li>● Engage families</li><li>● Provide targeted professional development</li></ul>        |
| Year Two     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Integrate phonics with literacy instruction</li><li>● Strengthen interventions</li><li>● Add morphology grades 3-5</li><li>● Track student achievement with regular assessments</li><li>● Engage families</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Focus on effective lesson pacing, differentiated instruction, and ongoing student progress monitoring</li></ul>  |
| Years Three+ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Continue professional development to sustain best practices</li><li>● Embed phonics instruction into daily literacy routines</li><li>● Analyze student achievement data</li><li>● Evaluate and refine</li></ul>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Sustain and refine curriculum implementation through data-driven instruction, ongoing professional development, and curriculum customization</li></ul> |



# Expected Outcomes & Accountability

## Foundational Skills

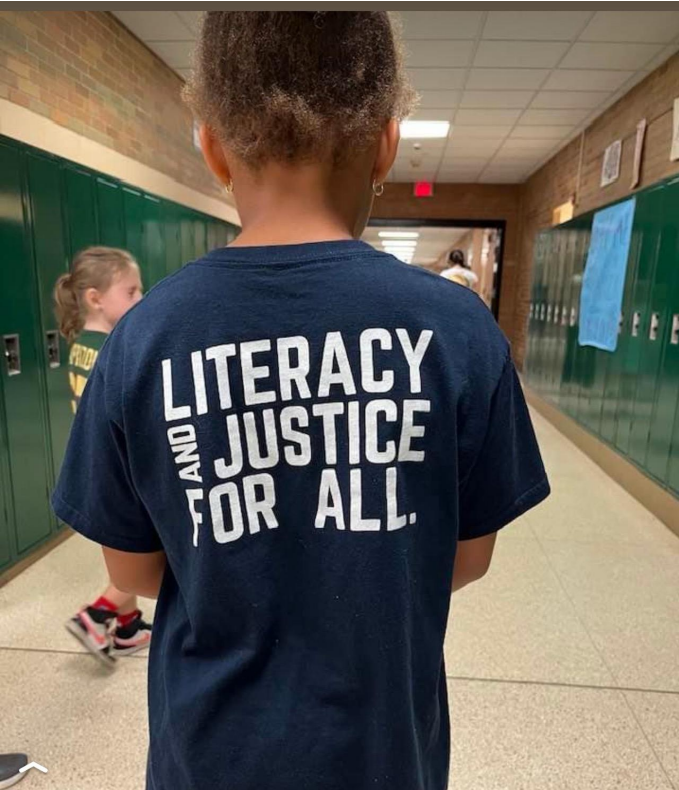
- Regularly assess student progress using UFLI tools to guide instruction.
- Monitor teacher implementation through classroom observations and feedback.
- Collect and analyze data on student achievement to inform curriculum adjustments.
- Evaluate program effectiveness annually to make improvements for future years.

## Knowledge Building

- Regularly use Benchmark Advance assessments to monitor student progress and adjust instruction as needed.
- Analyze data from standardized tests and benchmark assessments to evaluate overall program effectiveness.
- Collect feedback from teachers on the program's usability, effectiveness, and alignment with their teaching needs.



# Anticipated Curriculum Cost



- Year 1 = \$815,013
- Year 2 = \$69,793
- Years 3-6 = \$97,000

**Total 6 year implementation cost =  
\$1,048,806**



# Questions