NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOLS
SPIRIT | PRIDE | EXCELLENCE
Achieves

Teaching and Learning Update



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Chief of Learning & Leadership

May 13, 2025

NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOLS Achieves

SPIRIT | PRIDE | EXCELLENCE

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Superintendent's 90 Day Entry Plan REPORT

February 2024

Overall Academics Summary and Reflections

1. **Inclusive access to signature programming and post-secondary pathways is important, but cannot alone solve for students' competitiveness in college and career.** Opportunities can be created for students, but it is only with a strong foundation in literacy that they will be able to leverage those opportunities to pursue and achieve their post-secondary goals and aspirations.

2. **There are clear opportunities to strengthen the district's academic infrastructure – focused mainly on ensuring that foundational instructional components are in place (e.g. guaranteed and viable curriculum; instructional framework; clear intervention processes; common assessment strategy).** As it stands some of these foundational academic components are in place in schools, but not all. These findings are evidence of disparate practices which have been inconsistently applied - resulting in unpredictable outcomes and imbalance in the overall student experience.

3. **There is an eagerness among stakeholder groups to better clarify our approach to improving student outcomes – in a systematic way.** Going forward, it will also be vital to ensure that teachers have access to impactful, high quality materials while also determining what data we will prioritize along with the appropriate tools that will effectively measure student progress.

4. **As a school district, we must also pursue a culture of high expectations for both students and adults.**

ACADEMICS

Priority Actions

Alignment Policy

Update district policy to specifically prescribe the beliefs, practices, and component parts of an aligned system of teaching and learning.

Literacy Strategy

Develop a clear and comprehensive literacy strategy coupled with essential, research-based resources that correspond with that strategy.

Delivery & Assessment

Strengthen the instructional core by identifying and clarifying common expectations for planning, instructional delivery, intervention, and assessment.

Instructional Supervision

Provide clear and consistent systems of support and supervision for instructional personnel.

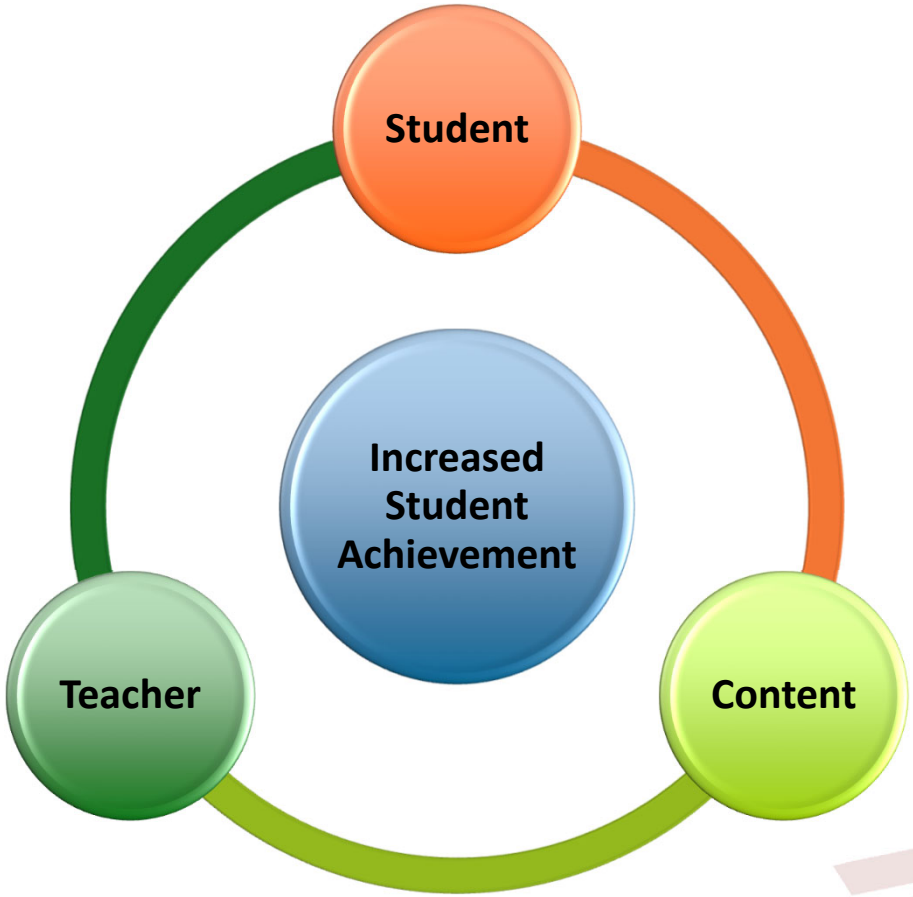
Expand Advanced Access

Re-evaluate and re-imagine the systems that limit student access to specialized, advanced academic programming.

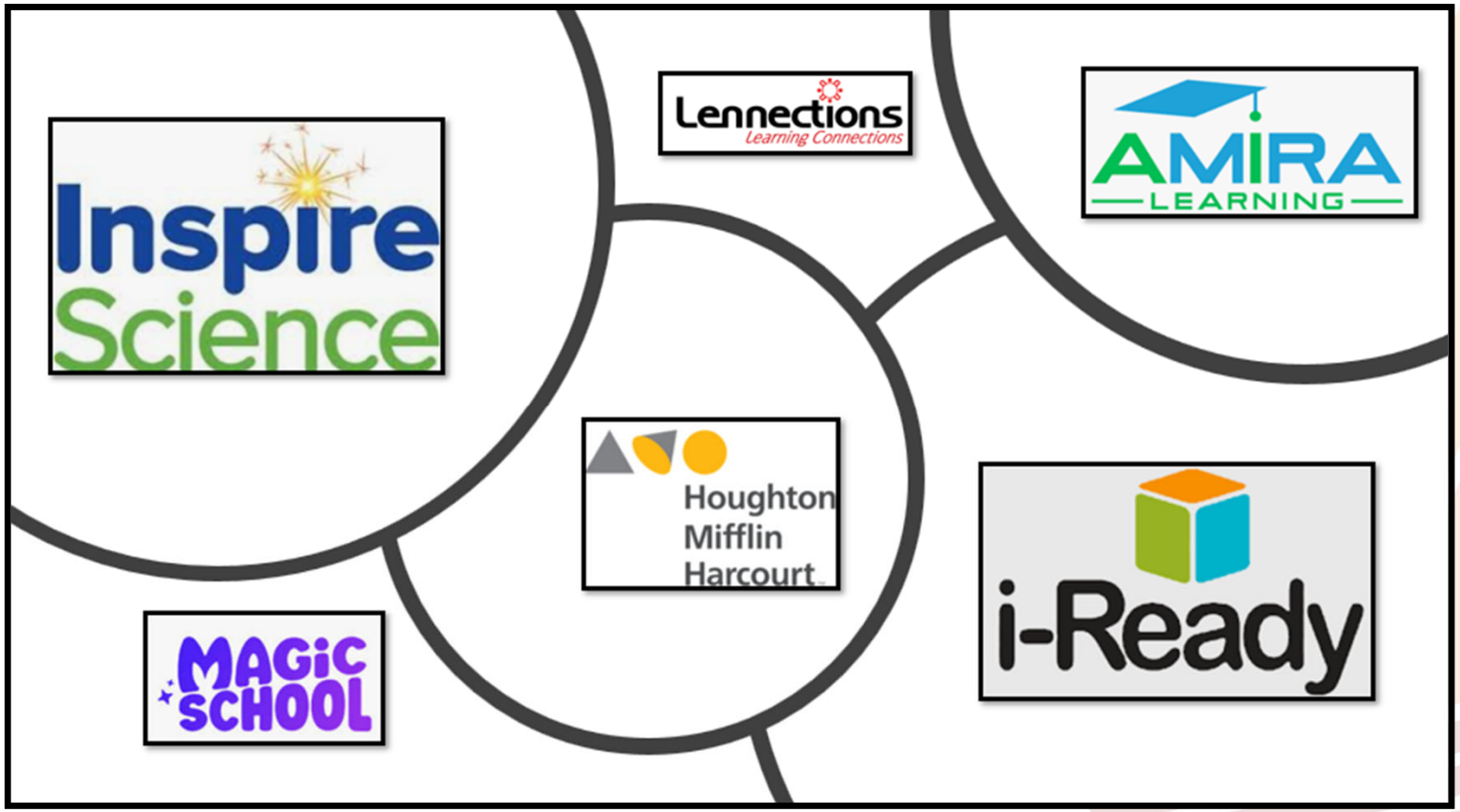


[1] "Early literacy plays a pivotal role in shaping a child's future academic success and lifelong learning by honing crucial language acquisition, phonological awareness, and comprehension skills. Through parental involvement, direct instruction, and interactive strategies, these essential skills can be nurtured. Ultimately, the cultivation of early literacy skills contributes to enhanced school readiness, lifelong learning, the empowerment of individuals, and the establishment of a solid foundation for intellectual growth." https://www.voyagersopris.com/vnl/blog/the-power-of-early-literacy

Strengthen Instructional Core



Core Instructional Resources



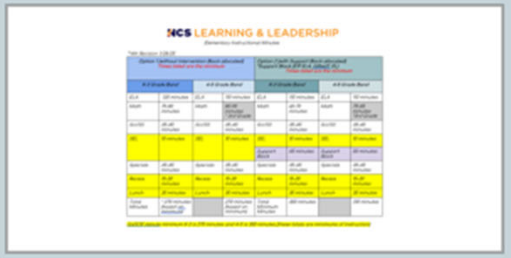
Instructional Framework

NCS EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING FRAMEWORK

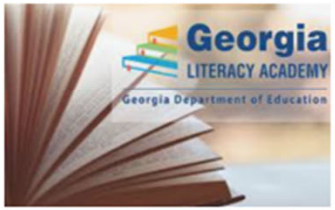
Leaders → Instructional Coaches → Teachers

Literacy Focus

NEWTON
COUNTY SCHOOLS
LITERACY
BLUEPRINT



ELA Components	K-2	3rd	4th-5th
Phonics/Academic Lang & Vocabulary	30 minutes	20 minutes	15 minutes
Reading (whole group/small group)	60 minutes	65 minutes	65 minutes
Writing	25 minutes	30 minutes	30 minutes



Focus for ‘25 – ‘26 School Year

- Planning standards-based lessons
- Teaching with high-leverage instructional strategies
- Monitoring progress through formative assessments
- Leveraging data to drive action

We are on a relentless pursuit to become the

FASTEST IMPROVING

school district in the state of Georgia – organized and led by a

HIGHLY SKILLED TEACHER & LEADER WORKFORCE

working tirelessly

on behalf of children for the benefit of our community

and **PRODUCING BREAKTHROUGH RESULTS**

NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOLS