NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOLS
SPIRIT | PRIDE | EXCELLENCE
Achieves

Literacy Update

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Georgia General Assembly 2025 Legislative Session

Georgia Department of Education

The Georgia Early Literacy & Dyslexia Act (House Bill 307) and Georgia's K-12 English Language Arts Standards (implementation SY 2025-26) are state requirements that provide guidance on literacy policy and practice statewide.


Duke Bradley III, Ph.D.
Superintendent's
90 Day Entry Plan
REPORT
STRONG FOUN
BRIGHT FUTUR
ACADEMICS
Key Actions
NCS ELA Performance Data
FINDINGS
LITERACY
Encouraging Observations
There exists an awareness across the district and across all schools that current literacy rates are unacceptable and performance is misaligned with the outcomes desired by the community and the Board of Education.
Schools have made significant investments in supplemental literacy materials to address student needs and to offset existing performance gaps.
Auxiliary programming (e.g. 2024 Literacy Extravaganza and Literacy Days) represent organized, supplemental efforts which are intended to energize the community around the importance of literacy within the district.
Newton County Schools | 90 Day Report
FREADOM

We pledge to…

Uphold literacy as a human necessity.

Enable a culture of lifelong learning.

Champion quality education.

Collaborate for success.

Create a future of hope and promise.

Make literacy the central focus of our efforts.

STATE OF THE DISTRICT

SY 2025-2026

ORGANIZATIONAL PRIORITIES

STRONG FOUNDATION BRIGHT FUTURE



ADVANCING ACADEMICS, SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT, AND STUDENT SUPPORTS

- *Strengthen the district's literacy foundation; clarify and document the district's literacy improvement philosophy, strategy, and resources*
- *Strengthen the instructional core (implement research-based instructional practices, interventions, and support systems in service of ensuring rigorous, Tier 1 Instruction, district-wide*



ADVANCING OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

- *Advance school safety through coordinated improvement strategy*
- *Ensure the development of a multi-year Strategic Plan*
- *Identify and implement necessary operational efficiencies to streamline core systems and enhance organizational effectiveness*
- *Evaluate district-wide facilities to explore opportunities for future use, right sizing, efficiency, upgrades, and modernization*



ADVANCING CULTURE & ENGAGEMENT

- *Develop a commonly applied, Tier I behavior support and intervention framework*
- *Deepen community and stakeholder engagement*



ADVANCING INNOVATION & ORGANIZATIONAL STABILITY

- *Strengthen pathways and programs for students that support workforce development, aligned with community needs and industry partnerships*
- *Evaluate and modernize policies to promote coherence and to correspond with the current state of the district*
- *Invest in the professional growth of current and aspiring leaders to strengthen executive capacity, develop a sustainable leadership pipeline, and ensure high-impact leadership at all levels*

NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

A Strategic Approach to Literacy Improvement



High Quality Instructional Materials

Professional Learning

HMH

i-Ready

REAP
READING IS ESSENTIAL FOR ALL PEOPLE

GaDOE
Georgia Department of Education

Universal Screening

Parent Communication and State Reporting

Alignment with the GaDOE





NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOLS LITERACY BLUEPRINT

GEORGIA COUNCIL on LITERACY

A Unified Approach to Building Our Future



NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOLS
LITERACY
BLUEPRINT

- Aligns curriculum, instruction, and professional development
- Creates a shared vision for student success
- Serves as a foundational pillar for district-wide academic improvement

NCS Literacy Next Steps

By Fall 2025:

- [x] Expanding the REAP Literacy Pilot to train more early-grade teachers in structured literacy practices.
- [x] Providing professional learning for K-3 teachers on phonemic awareness, decoding, and fluency.
- [x] Launching targeted support for struggling readers in grades 4-12, ensuring older students receive the interventions they need.
- [x] Developing a district-wide instructional framework to ensure literacy is a priority in every subject.
- [x] Collaborate with community stakeholders, Archway Partnership: “Living and Learning for Life.”

By Spring 2026:

- [x] Full implementation of literacy unit planning guides that embed structured literacy strategies into all subjects.
- [x] Completion of Adolescent Literacy Training for all teachers in grades 4-12.
- [ ] Establishing a system for Learning Walks to monitor literacy instruction across the district. **(Current Work)**

By Fall 2026 and Beyond:

- [ ] Full implementation of the district-wide literacy blueprint instructional framework, ensuring structured literacy strategies in all classrooms.
- [ ] Ongoing professional development for teachers and instructional coaches to sustain momentum.
- [ ] A long-term sustainability plan to ensure that literacy progress is maintained year after year.

ACTION ONE:
Empowering Educators

ACTION TWO:
Establishing a Strong Foundation for Literacy

ACTION THREE:
Engaging Families and the Community

ACTION FOUR:
Measuring Our Progress and Holding Ourselves Accountable

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BUILDING OUR FUTURE







NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOLS LITERACY BLUEPRINT