

PIEDMONT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Dr. Donald Evans, Interim Superintendent
Dr. Cheryl Wozniak, Assistant Superintendent

PRESENTERS: Dr. Cheryl Wozniak, Assistant Superintendent
Carol Cramer, Wildwood Principal

DATE: May 10, 2023

**SUBJECT: FIRST READING: ADOPTION OF FOUNDATIONAL LITERACY
INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**

PURPOSE: To present the instructional materials that elementary teachers and administrators recommend for Board adoption

BACKGROUND

In 2015, the California Department of Education adopted English Language Arts instructional materials, following the adoption of the Common Core English Language Arts Standards in 2010 and the English Language Arts/English Language Development Framework in 2014. Districts are given local control in deciding the timeline for adopting materials, based on local priorities. The elementary adoption process for English language arts was completed in 2019 and high numbers of local reading data show approximately 90% of eighth-grade readers are proficient or advanced; however, research and local, state, and national discussions about the science of reading and the effectiveness of our currently adopted phonics curriculum have been taking place over the past 3 years which led the district to work with primary teachers to review other phonics curriculum options.

A thorough process of reviewing, piloting, and selecting instructional materials takes time, especially when the process is designed to allow time for teachers to pilot more than one curricula. What follows is a brief summary of the Foundational Literacy Curriculum Committee's process, including committee members, timeline, parent engagement, curriculum reviewed, and curriculum being recommended.

Timeline

Fall 2022 - K-2 Committee met to review the two phonics curricula that rated “fully met” on the Ed Reports.

February-April - Eight teachers piloted a curriculum over an 8-week period. Teachers completed a weekly log on the strengths and weaknesses of the curriculum.

May - Pilot teachers and administrators met to discuss the results of the pilot. Teachers agreed on a curriculum to be recommended to the Board for adoption and implementation in 2023-24.

Foundational Literacy Adoption Committee

K-2 classroom teachers and site and district administrators were on the Foundational Literacy Instructional Materials Adoption Committee. Below is a list of the committee members.

Pam Quintella (Kindergarten, Beach)

Lydia Adams (Kindergarten, Havens)

Melina Rinehart (1st grade, Beach)

Christine Fredericks (1st grade, Havens)

Bonnie Forbes (1st grade, Havens)

Amiee Peri (1st grade, Wildwood)

Lesley Wighton (2nd grade, Beach)

Jodi Carter (2nd grade, Havens)

Anne Valva (Principal, Beach)

Anne Dolid (Principal, Havens)

Carol Cramer (Principal, Wildwood)

Cheryl Wozniak (Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services)

Curriculum Reviewed

Using the Instructional Materials Evaluation Tool (IMET), teachers on the adoption committee calibrated their rating of materials and used it to evaluate the two available curricula. Teachers confirmed that *Amplify CKLA Skills* and *From Phonics to Reading* both met the IMET criteria. Teachers also created a list of district priorities and reviewed the two curricula on each of the following: the degree to which all students can access the curriculum which includes the ease of differentiation, equity and social justice, time constraints, the degree to which the materials are user-friendly and easy for teachers to prepare lessons, the degree to which the materials are teachable without needing to be supplemented, and the curriculum’s connection to writing.

The outcome of these reviews for each curriculum resulted in the teachers deciding that *Amplify CKLA Skills* was not a viable option and *From Phonics to Reading* should be moved to

the next phase of the process which is piloting the curriculum. Details related to each curriculum can be found in the supporting slide deck and will be presented at the Board meeting.

Curriculum Pilot

Eight teachers piloted *From Phonics to Reading* from February 27-April 28, 2023. Teachers and administrators unanimously agreed that *From Phonics to Reading* should be recommended to the Board for adoption and implementation in 2023-24. Details on the pilot can be found in the supporting slide deck and will be presented at the Board meeting.

Parent Engagement

Parents were engaged in the process in a few ways. Parents of the students who were part of the pilot process were informed that their children were going to receive instruction using the new curriculum that was being piloted and feedback was encouraged. Tri-school Site Council members were updated as the process was in progress. Instructional materials are on display at the District Office and parents were provided online links to the curriculum and are encouraged to give input on the [parent feedback form](#).

RECOMMENDATION: First Reading Foundational Literacy Curriculum

Dr. Cheryl Wozniak, Assistant Superintendent, and middle and high school staff will present the first reading for the health science instructional materials.

FISCAL IMPACT

The fiscal impact is the cost of the teacher manuals and copies for the school district (one-time expenses) and student workbook materials and online access each year. In 2023-24, the estimated cost is \$18,000 based on the current enrollment numbers for grades K-3. The student materials are consumable and the estimated yearly expenditure for the life of this adoption is \$17,000 per year.