



# **K-8 Literacy Curriculum Review 2024-2025 Lincoln Public Schools**



*“the district will identify a substantially revised  
or new K-8 literacy curriculum for  
implementation in the 2025-2026 school year.”*



# Shifts in Literacy

## Instruction – Mass Literacy Guide

**Shift #1: Provide explicit, systematic instruction in foundational skills to every child.**

**Shift #2: Build comprehension by engaging all students in discussion of complex, knowledge-rich text sets.**

**Shift #3: Use small-group reading time to target foundational skills, or to develop comprehension using complex**

**Shift #4: Provide time on all components of core literacy block, every day, to develop all aspects of literacy.**

# Knowledge-Based Curriculum

*“Knowledge-based learning is an instructional approach that helps students broaden and deepen their knowledge of specific content areas and topics. Using this approach, learners use and build on their prior knowledge to make connections and deepen their understanding.” ~Learning A-Z*

*“The knowledge-building aspect of reading is what needs to take center stage with the combination of strategies being put into practice when they are needed to facilitate that construction of meaning.” ~HILL for Literacy*

*“Comprehension instruction is more effective when it is text-centric (rather than strategy-centric), focusing heavily on giving students deep and engaging interactions with worthwhile texts.” ~Shifting the Balance*

# Literacy Curriculum Committee

- K-8 Representation
- Classroom Teachers, Special Education, EL, School Leadership, Literacy Specialists, Instructional Coach, Instructional Technology, METCO
- 9 Faculty Members from **Hanscom**
- 8 Faculty Members from **Lincoln**

# Timeline

## **October 2024 - December 2024**

Establish Priorities, Instructional Vision, and Narrow Down Curriculum to Review

## **January 2025**

Brought in Programs for Presentations and Finalized Programs to Pilot

## **March-May 2025**

Pilot and Collect Data | Feedback and Observations from Neighboring Districts

## **May-June 2025**

Choose Program for Implementation in 2025-2026 School Year

# Choosing A Curriculum

- Latest research on best practices in reading instruction
  - Complex, grade level texts with scaffolding to provide access to all students
  - Frequent amount of academic discourse
  - Text-based explicit instruction
- Diverse representation of characters as well as authors and illustrators
- Priorities expressed in the staff survey

# Things to Keep in Mind

- There is no perfect curriculum and curriculum doesn't improve achievement by itself.
- It will take several years to see the many of the benefits of a new program.
- There needs to be a balance between implementing a curriculum with integrity and adjusting that curriculum to individual needs.

# Programs Reviewed

- Fishtank (K-8)
- EL Education (K-8)
- American Reading Company (ARC) (K-8)
- Into Reading (K-5) /Into Literature (6-8)
- Amplify CKLA (K-5)/Amplify ELA (6-8)
- Wonders (K-5)

# Programs Piloted

6 weeks, 22 teachers in grades K-8

- Fishtank (K-8)
- EL Education (K-8)
- Amplify CKLA (K-5)/Amplify ELA (6-8)

# Fishtank (K-8)

## **Build knowledge to nurture critical thinking**

Effective literacy instruction builds students' reading/writing skills and knowledge, develops students' identity and agency, helps students understand the world around them, and creates independent critical readers

## **Prioritizing student voices and ideas to build agency.**

Engaging in regular academic discourse is essential for students to synthesize texts and content, spark their curiosity, develop original ideas, and find their voice

## **Centering diverse, relevant, and rigorous texts.**

Every student, regardless of background and reading level, should read complex, engaging texts written in a variety of genres and by diverse voices, to highlight the diversity and richness of the human experience.

## **Preparing teachers to support students.**

Intellectual preparation allows teachers to do their best teaching: when teachers deeply understand the text and unit themes they can help all students master grade-level content and standards.

## **Learning to write, writing to learn.**

Writing and language skills are best taught in context, allowing students to authentically analyze and author's craft and structure, develop their own voice as writers, and build deeper meaning with the texts and ideas.

# EL Education (K-8)

## **Standards-based**

Tailor-built to standards for college and career readiness and life success. It receives quality reviews against acclaimed standards-alignment rubrics (IMET, EQulP) conducted by leading experts.

## **Builds Content Knowledge**

Students acquire substantive knowledge—science and social studies—as a means of building deeper literacy skills. Teachers build knowledge and skills simultaneously.

## **Incorporates Social Emotional Learning**

Curriculum encourages compassionate leadership and thoughtful citizenship by helping students connect their learning to their communities, where schoolwork has real impact on issues they care about.

## **Features Engaging, Complex Texts**

Students tackle grade-level texts that stretch and grow their abilities, while experiencing the joy of learning from their favorite books by diverse authors.

## **Research-informed**

Curriculum is built on the science of reading and the science of learning and development. It is validated by rigorous third party research showing excellent equitable outcomes for students from diverse backgrounds.

## **Built for Equity**

Nurtures the genius in every child—including ELLs, economically disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, and advanced learners—with differentiated and inclusive opportunities to excel.

# Amplify CKLA (K-5)/ Amplify ELA (6-8)

## **Grounded in the Science of Reading**

Putting research into action with a proven knowledge-building sequence. In collaboration with education experts and practitioners, we provide powerful resources that deliver real results.

## **All-in-one digital platform**

Comprehensive platform simplifies day-to-day tasks and makes it easier to plan and deliver lessons.

## **High-quality, diverse texts**

Immerses students in a variety of texts—complex read-alouds, trade books, and content-rich readers—that reflect varied experiences and connect to learning goals.

## **Reach all learners with differentiated support**

Scaffolds and challenges, developed in collaboration with education experts, make content available to every student. With strategies embedded right in the curriculum, teachers can deliver in the moment, individualized instruction to meet all students needs.

## **Background Knowledge Drives Results**

Follows a content-specific, cumulative, and coherent approach to knowledge building. This approach improves reading scores and closes the achievement gap by establishing a robust knowledge base that strengthens comprehension. The 3rd edition has an enriched Knowledge Sequence with a wider of perspectives and high-quality texts in new and enhance units.

# Data Collection

- Ongoing Teacher Surveys
- Overall teacher survey
- In-House Observations
- Observations to other districts
- Student Surveys
- Parent Input

# Final Decision: End of May

- Data Summarized and Presented to Committee
- Discussion with Committee Members about their experiences with each of the programs
- Input-based decision



# Material Exploration and Questions

# Feedback Form

