

Grundy County Schools
Foundational Literacy Skills Plan

Approved: May 27, 2021

Updated: November 3, 2023

This Foundational Literacy Skills Plan has been approved by the Tennessee Department of Education and meets the requirements of the *Tennessee Literacy Success Act*. All portions of the Foundational Literacy Skills plan were submitted to the department and approved. To view the supplemental artifacts, please contact the district directly.

Daily Foundational Literacy Skills Instruction in Grades K-2

Grundy County uses Amplify's Core Knowledge Language Arts which is a foundational skills curriculum grounded in the science of reading and aligned to the Tennessee ELA standards as approved by the state Textbook and Instructional Materials Quality Commission. K-2 ELA classes in Grundy County range from 120-150 minutes. Amplify skills strand fulfills the requirement of 60 minute of daily foundational skills instruction. Phonics and phonological awareness activities and practices are components of the instruction for the foundational skills in Amplify.

According to the CKLA Design Principles: Skills Strand, CKLA begins phonics instruction by starting with the sounds first then attaching those sounds to spellings. CKLA's synthetic phonics approach begins by teaching the most common or least ambiguous spelling for a sound (basic code spelling); later it teaches spelling alternatives for sounds that can be spelled in different ways. The system is kept simple at first and complexity is added bit-by-bit as students gain confidence and automatize their reading and writing skills. In CKLA, all 150 spellings for the 44 sounds in English will be taught in an intentionally sequenced progression from Kindergarten through Grade 2. After the initial instruction, CKLA reinforces code-related skills to build automaticity. CKLA directly instructs blending & segmenting that underlie and parallel reading and writing skills.

In addition to the skills strand which explicitly teaches phonemic awareness, phonics, and fluency, CKLA contains a knowledge strand which supports the building of comprehension and vocabulary skills. CKLA's two-strand approach, based on reading research, ensures that students are both building skills and building the background knowledge in content and vocabulary necessary to comprehend what they read. (CKLA Design Principles: Skills Strand)

Daily Foundational Literacy Skills Instruction in Grades 3-5

Grundy County uses Amplify's Core Knowledge Language Arts which is a foundational skills curriculum grounded in the science of reading and aligned to the Tennessee ELA standards as approved by the state Textbook and Instructional Materials Quality Commission. 3-5 ELA classes in Grundy County range from 120-150 minutes. CKLA 3-5 curriculum embeds foundational skills instruction within the daily lesson structure to fulfill the 30 minute requirement.

According to the CKLA Design Principles, Grade level requirements emphasize the ability to read and write in response to increasingly complex texts. Students in CKLA get daily exposure to these texts. In daily reading instruction students are asked, both in discussion and through short and longer-answer written responses, to answer text-dependent literal, evaluative, and inferential questions about literary and informational texts. CKLA offers explicit language instruction within the units in Grades 3–5 with full coverage of the standards. Students learn and apply the conventions of English grammar, punctuation, and spelling through explicit instruction, targeted practice activities, and daily writing. In Grade 3, foundational skills continue to be reinforced, with a new emphasis on word morphology. This practice continues throughout all grades in the Amplify curriculum. Strong explicit instruction and targeted practice increase students’ fluency and comprehension.

Approved Instructional Materials for Grades K-2

Amplify - K-5 Core Knowledge Language Arts

Approved Instructional Materials for Grades 3-5

Amplify - K-5 Core Knowledge Language Arts

Additional Information about Instructional Materials

Amplify CKLA was adopted for grades K-5 and was on the state adoption list.

Universal Reading Screener for Grades K-5. This screener complies with RTI² and Say Dyslexia requirements.

EasyCBM is our universal screener in grades K-5 for benchmarking and progress monitoring and is on the state approved list. EasyCBM complies with RTI² and Say Dyslexia requirements. The screener is used to assess reading and math in the fall, winter, and spring for grades Kindergarten through 5th grade.

Grundy County 3rd grade students will also complete the Tennessee Universal Screener, Aimsweb, in the spring in order to fulfill the purposes of 3rd grade promotion considerations. Aimsweb complies with the RTI² and Say Dyslexia requirements.

Intervention Structure and Supports

Grundy County Schools utilizes research based SRA Reading Mastery for Tier 2 students and Sunday Phonics/Essentials for Tier 3 students in K-5 who have been identified as at risk due to a reading deficiency. If those interventions do not prove to be effective, more comprehensive, strategic interventions, such as SPIRE, become an option. Universal Screener, teacher observation, and student classroom performance are used by the RTI Team to determine student’s level of intervention needed based on the students’ skill gap. Students identified receive an additional 45 minutes of daily intervention. Intervention students are progress monitored every two weeks using EasyCBM, and scores are recorded to track the students progress. The data team meets monthly to monitor student’s data. If a student is not showing progress, the team will determine if a new placement, program or delivery is needed.

Parent Notification Plan/Home Literacy Reports

Grundy County communicates information to parents/guardians regarding results of the universal screener after it is given in the fall, winter, and spring in parent friendly language. A parent letter is sent home with students alongside the universal screening scores if reading intervention is necessary for their child. The parents are told what intervention the student will receive, his/her skill gaps, and level of reading deficiency (“at-risk” or significant reading deficiency as evidenced in scoring 0-25 percentile on universal screener). This letter also includes the importance of reading on grade level by third grade, reading intervention activities for families, and the reading intervention provided by the school. Parents are subsequently notified after school level RTI2 team meetings if progress is not being made or a change of placement is required.

Professional Development Plan

Teachers in our district will participate in the free Early Literacy Training series developed by the Tennessee Department of Education. Our plan for providing PD for all K-5 teachers is as follows: July 2021 – All K-5 teachers will engage in Week 1 of the Early Literacy Training online series. This training will focus on foundational reading development and instruction and is grounded in a phonics-based approach. We will ensure that participating educators earn a completion certificate prior to starting school in August 2021. Teachers will sign off with the district once they completed the course and turn in a certificate for completion of the training. In conjunction with the Early Literacy Training series, K-5 teachers will receive the following literacy professional development: PLCs, Coaching Cycles, and focused Professional Development from the district.