



Literacy Curriculum Update

November 25, 2024

PUBLIC SCHOOLS of
BROOKLINE



Agenda

- Review priorities for new High Quality Instructional Materials
- Provide an update on adoption process
 - How we arrived at the three options
- Share Format for Community Open House
11/25 5:00-6:00

MISSION

The Public Schools of Brookline's mission is to educate and inspire every student to lead a fulfilling life and make positive contributions to our world.

VISION

Brookline provides every student with an extraordinary education, through enriching learning experiences and supportive community, so that they may develop to their fullest potential.

District Core Values

JOY IN LEARNING

Our schools are dedicated to teaching students to be involved, active learners who work hard, think critically and creatively, and communicate effectively. We emphasize high expectations for all students and seek to instill a lifelong joy in learning through a rich curriculum that will allow students to find and succeed at what they love, and flourish in their lives.

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

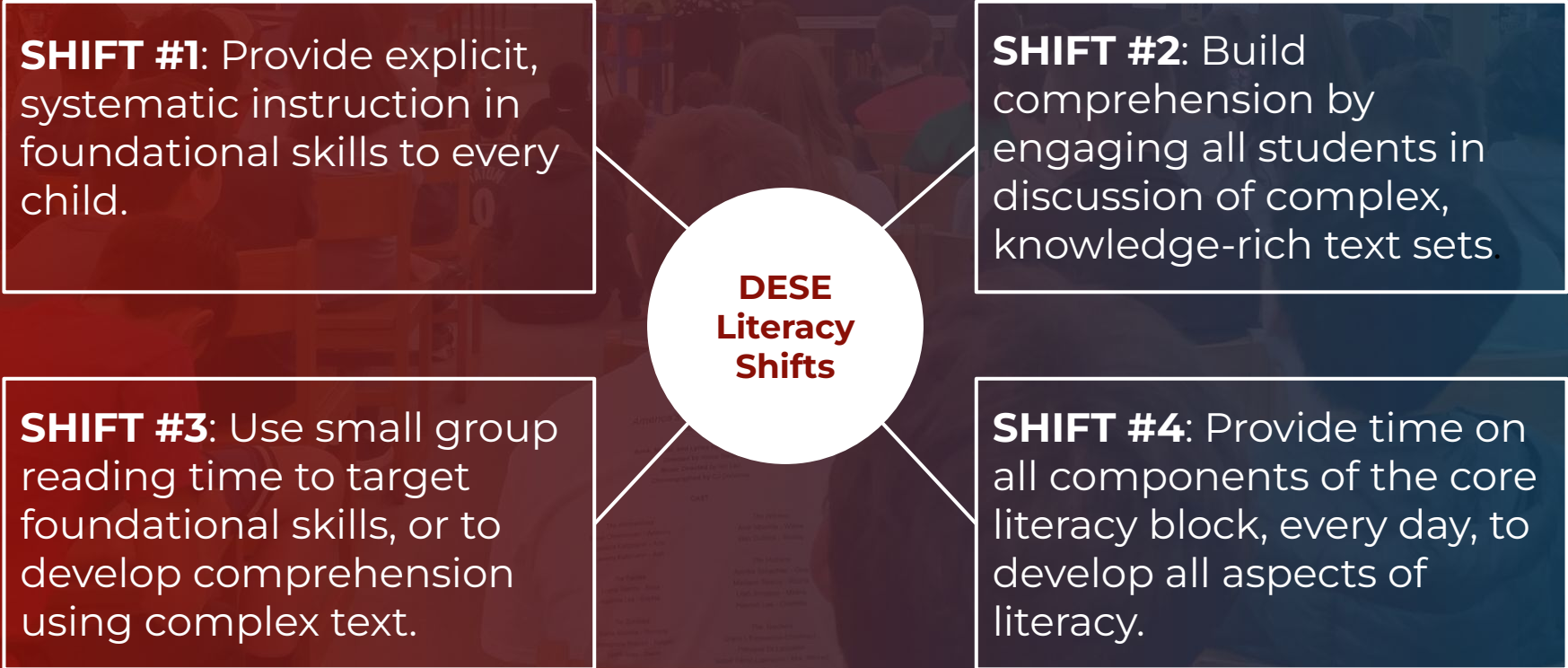
Passionate, knowledgeable, skillful teachers are the core strength of our schools. Our educators provide a dynamic and rewarding learning experience for students. We are committed to supporting a professional community that creates and sustains an atmosphere of intellectual excitement, innovative instruction, personal growth, and strong relationships between faculty and students.

PSB Literacy Vision

Brookline Literacy Vision

Brookline teachers foster an understanding of and appreciation for the literate habits that empower all students on their path towards college, career, and leadership in our community. Students understand that reading, writing, and discussion are conduits to learning about content, identities, cultures, and people. Through reading, writing, speaking, and listening, literacy classrooms cultivate critical thinking, independence and the tools students need to have a voice in our world.

How Do These Instructional Materials Differ from our Current Materials?



Knowledge Building Curriculum

Knowledge-building curricula develop reading, writing, thinking, and speaking muscles, putting students in the driver's seat for future learning.

They take a research-based approach to literacy instruction, accounting for what is established through 500-plus research studies about how children best learn to read, write, think, and use language capably and with confidence. Most notably, they combine coherent progressions of thought-provoking content knowledge in powerful and proven ways with the other two essential science of reading ingredients well established in the literature:

1. Systematic foundational skills instruction, including for older students who need it.
2. Regular close reading of challenging, engaging texts that emphasizes how to learn independently from these texts.

These two must work in concert with building content knowledge to genuinely accelerate student literacy.

-Taken from
<https://knowledgematterscampaign.org/explore-curricula/>



DESE identifies materials that have been reviewed by edreports as partially or fully aligned to college and career ready standards.

These materials are then reviewed through the CURATE process.

CRITERIA for ELA Curriculum

ORGANIZATION OF MATERIALS

Materials used by the EDUCATORS are user-friendly, clear, and well-organized.	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Disagree
Materials are available online and are easy to navigate.	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Disagree
Materials used by the STUDENTS are user-friendly.	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Disagree
Materials are available to differentiate for STUDENTS who may be working below grade level.	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Disagree
Materials are available to differentiate for STUDENTS who may be working above grade level.	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Disagree
The OVERALL organization of the curriculum materials works best for...	Teachers ONLY	BOTH	Students ONLY
The curriculum materials work best for GRADES... K-2	3-5	6-8	ALL (K-8)

ACADEMIC FEATURES

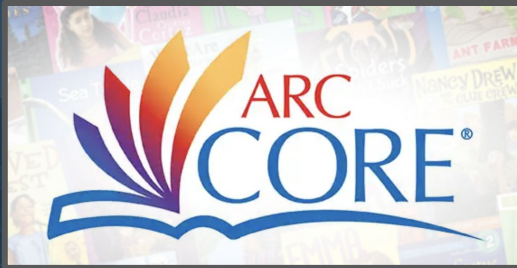
How much TIME is needed in order to incorporate all of the components of the program?

TEXTS	Students engage with a wide variety of texts that are grade level appropriate.	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Disagree
	Texts include representation and value various cultures, identities, and perspectives.	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Disagree
	If not, could we add in supplemental texts?	YES	NO	
	Modules adequately build background knowledge in science and social studies.	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Disagree
WRITING	How many days per week are students writing?	2-3	3-4	4-5
	How long are the writing blocks?			

	Are students given choice on writing topics or are they pre-determined by the curriculum?	Student Choice	Combination	Pre-determined
	Materials include explicit instruction in narrative writing.	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Disagree
	Materials include explicit instruction in informational writing.	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Disagree
	Materials include explicit instruction in persuasive writing.	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Disagree
FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS & WORD STUDY	Materials include explicit, systematic instruction in phonemic awareness. If YES, in what grades and how is the instruction delivered?	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Disagree
	Materials include explicit, systematic phonics instruction. If YES, in what grades and how is the instruction delivered?	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Disagree
	Materials include aligned, cohesive vocabulary and grammar instruction.	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Disagree
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT				
How long does it take to get trained in one module?				
How long does it take to get trained on the entire program?				
The vendor provides a "train the trainer" option and offers ongoing support.				
ASSESSMENT				
Materials include informal and formal assessments that help teachers measure learning and adjust instruction/interventions.		Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Disagree
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS				
Areas of Strength				
Areas of Weakness				
What other surrounding districts are using the curriculum?				

PSB's 3 ELA Curriculum Options

Educators unanimously chose the following 3 options to move forward:



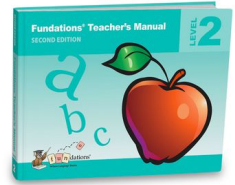
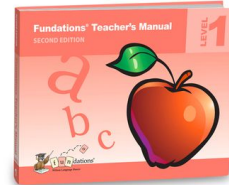
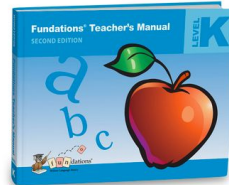
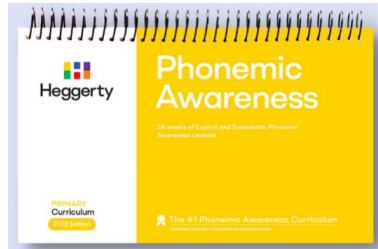
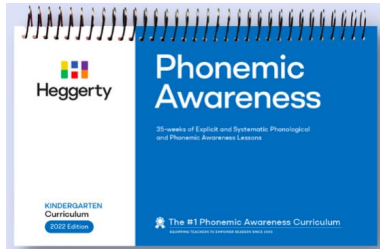
Foundational Skills

Grades K-2 will continue to use Heggerty & Foundations.

Heggerty will continue to be used daily in grades K & 1 during whole-class and small group instruction.
Grade 2 will continue to use it for small group instruction.

Foundations will continue to be used daily in grades K-2.

Materials for foundational skills in grades 3-5 is TBD.



Open House Format

- Each program is set out on 2 tables which include:
 - Teacher materials
 - Students material
 - Outline of the topics for the year
- Use the form to share your reflections on the following questions for each program:
 - Do you see the students of Brookline reflected in the materials?
 - Are the topics studied relevant to the students of Brookline?
 - What questions do you have?



Massachusetts Department of EDUCATION				
	Library Lab (100 Book Challenge)	Informational	Genre Study	Argument
Reading Focus	Literature & Informational	Informational	Literature	Informational
Final Writing Products	Narrative & Argumentative Essay	Informational Text/Book	Literary Essay & Short Story	Argumentative Essay
Focus Standards	R.1, R.4, R.10, W.9, W.10	R.2, R.5, R.7, W.2	R.2, R.3, R.5, R.9	R.4, R.8, W.1
Standards in All Units	Reading #1, #4, #7, #9, #10 Writing #4-10 Speaking & Listening #1-6 Language #1-6			
	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Grade K	So you want to be a Scientist? NGSS K-2-ETS1.1	Zoology NGSS K-LS 1-1	Ecology NGSS K-ESS2	Entomology NGSS K-ESS3
Grade 1	Mapping My WORLD MA 1.T2	Wild and Endangered ANIMALS NGSS 1-LS 1-3	Family Stories MA 1.T1	Plants NGSS 1-LS 1-3
Grade 2	Worlds Change like Waffles MA 2.T1	Bugs NGSS 2-LS2-2, LS 4-1	ANIMAL STORIES & Animals	Jobs in My COMMUNITY MA 2.T1-5
Grade 3	DINOSAURS & KNIGHTS MA 3.T1	WEATHER and CLIMATE NGSS 3-ESS 2-3	TRADITIONAL TALES & World Cultures	Marine Life NGSS 3-LS 1-4
Grade 4	Bravery and BEAN NGSS 4-LS1 1-2	ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS NGSS 4-LS 1-2	American Historical Fiction & American History MA 4.T4	US STATES MA 4.T1-4
Grade 5	ALIENS MA 5.T1	Ecosystems NGSS 5-PS3-1, LS 1-2 ESS 2-3	ADVENTURE (Greece)	Civil War Era MA 5.T5
Grade 6	World Mythology MA 6.T1-5	GEOLOGY NGSS ESS2 1-3, MS-ESS1-4	Fantasy	World Civilizations MA 6.T1-5
Grade 7	Poetry MA 7.T1	American Revolution	American Historical Fiction	WESTWARD EXPANSION
Grade 8	Science Fiction MA 8.T7	Environmental Studies NGSS MS-ESS3 1-5, MA 8.T4	WORLD HISTORICAL FICTION	CIVIL RIGHTS ERA MA 8.T1-7

THANK YOU



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