

PUBLIC SCHOOLS of
BROOKLINE



K-8 ELA Curriculum Implementation Update

September 18, 2025



District Strategic Priority

Strategic Priority:

Increase achievement for all students by establishing, implementing and regularly assessing a consistent, high-quality and challenging curriculum delivered using evidence-based practices.

PBS will select evidence-based materials and provide professional learning opportunities to offer effective Tier 1 instruction to teach all literacy components.

Implement MA Process & Partnerships



Partnerships for Learning and Strategic Planning

Hill For Literacy, Unbound Ed Leadership Academy, MA Dyslexia Institute, MTSS Tiered Literacy Academy, New Teachers Center, Schoolkit

Shifting Literacy Instruction

Mass Literacy: THE FOUR SHIFTS

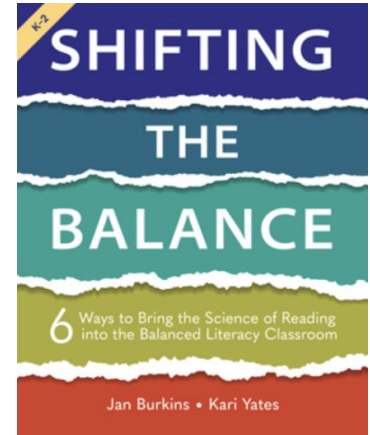


SHIFT #1: Provide explicit, systematic instruction in foundational skills to every child.

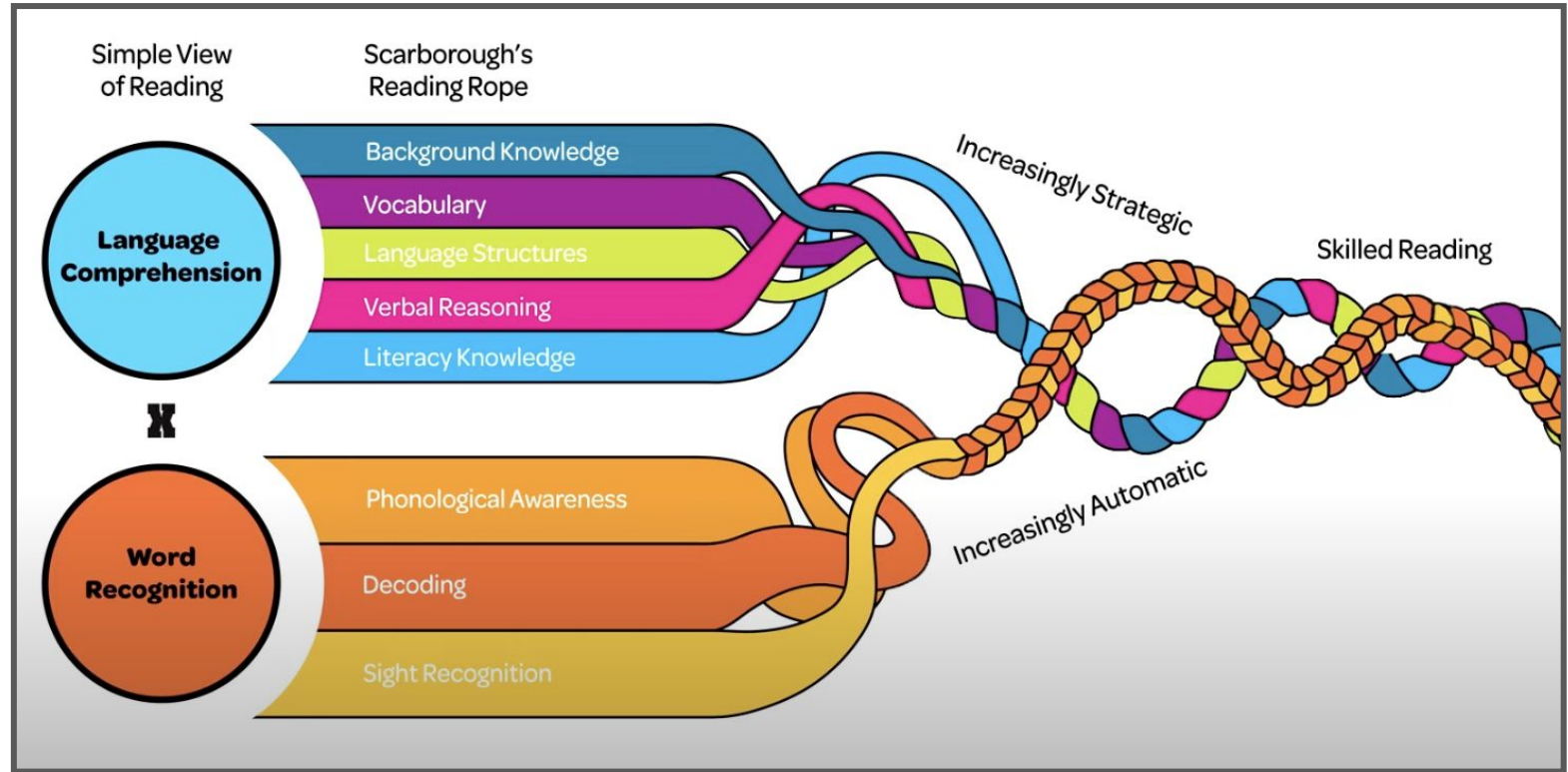
SHIFT #2: Build comprehension by engaging all students in discussion of complex, knowledge-rich text sets.

SHIFT #3: Use small group reading time to target foundational skills, or to develop comprehension using complex text.

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



The Science of Reading



PSB ELA Vision Statement

“Students will become critical thinkers who challenge themselves to expand and question the perspectives of themselves and others through reading, writing, speaking, and/or listening.”

Investigation and Selection Process

Spring 2024

- Literacy Team reviewed 7 DESE approved programs using review reports from EdReports and CURATE.
- Narrowed the selection to 3 programs for further review by stakeholders.

Fall 2024

- Teachers met with vendors and reviewed materials during Collab Time and Faculty Meetings
- Teachers provided feedback using a High Quality Curriculum Rubric
- Open house for community members to review and provide feedback on materials



Fishtank ELA: Guiding Principles

1

**Building
knowledge to
nurture critical
thinking**

2

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

3

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

4

**Learning
to write,
writing to
learn**

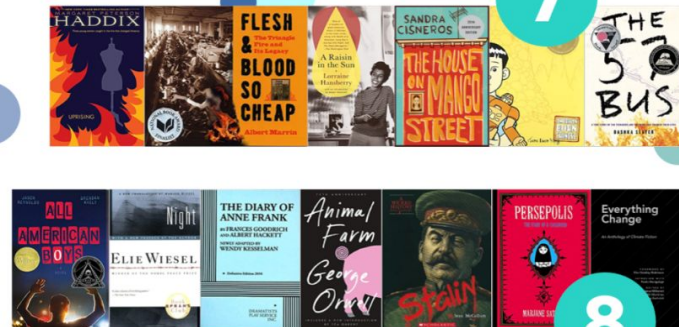
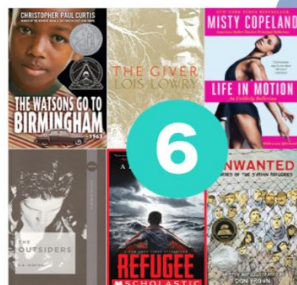
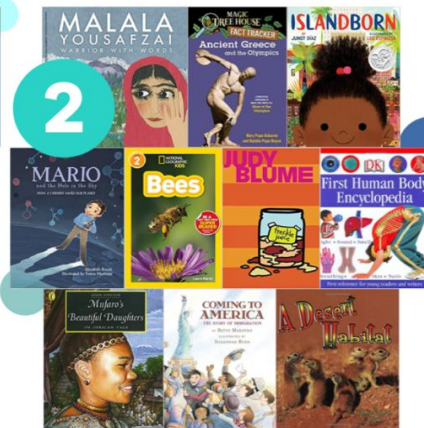
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**Preparing
teachers to
support
students**

Fishtank ELA PD

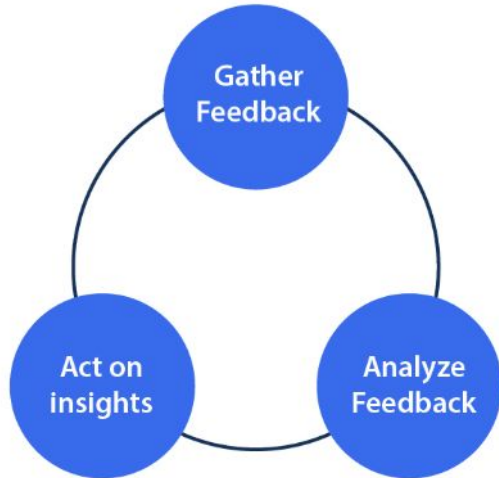
K-5: Spring 2025
6-8: Summer 2025





Implement and Monitor SY25-26 and beyond...

Feedback Loop



- Full implementation K-5
- Partial implementation 6-8 with plan for full implementation by SY26-27
- Support for intellectual prep
- Ongoing data collection
 - Benchmark data
 - Teacher and student surveys
 - Classroom observations

Implement and Monitor SY25-26 and beyond...



- Development of shared look-fors
- Coaching
- Including district leaders, building administrators, teachers
- Inform future PD, teacher support, revisions to curriculum