



LITERACY PLAN

The goal of the district's literacy plan is to ensure that every student reaches their full potential as a reader, writer, speaker, and listener. Using what industry experts consider 'the science of reading', the district uses the following components as the foundation for effective literacy instruction:

COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION
LETTER RECOGNITION, ALPHABETIC KNOWLEDGE, CONCEPTS ABOUT PRINT	Students need instruction and practice recognizing letters in upper and lower case forms, connecting letters to their primary sounds, and making the connection between language and print
PHONEMIC AWARENESS	Students need instruction on how to recognize and manipulate the sounds that make up words
PHONICS AND WORD RECOGNITION	Students learn to identify sound-spelling relationships and patterns
FLUENCY	Students need regular practice reading and re-reading texts, with a focus on developing accuracy
VOCABULARY & KNOWLEDGE	Students need instruction and exposure to texts that allow them to develop deep vocabularies and a broad knowledge of the world that they can draw from
TEXT COMPREHENSION	Students comprehend what they read when they are both able to fluently decode the text and understand the words on the page; when these are both in place, students need instruction and practice analyzing, interpreting and evaluating texts using key ideas and details
INTEGRATED WRITING, SPEAKING, LISTENING, AND LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION	Students require opportunities to practice each of the following
ANTI-RACIST, CULTURALLY RELEVANT CONTENT	Students must find the readings and topics relevant to fully engage

The structured reading block includes core instruction on grade-level, small group instruction and interventions to support struggling learners. These components will be part of every student’s literacy learning from Kindergarten through high school:

GRADE LEVEL	SUMMARY
GRADES K-2	Students will be scheduled for a 150-minute ELA block, which includes Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking. The block has three lesson types: Foundational Skills, Content Based Literacy Module Lessons, and a Small Group Instruction (SGI) block.
GRADES 3-8	Students will be scheduled for 100 minutes of ELA, which includes Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking. Students spend half of their ELA period on Content Based Literacy Module Lessons and the other half on Small Group Instruction (SGI), where they can continue to receive instruction on foundational skills should this be a barrier to their learning.
HIGH SCHOOL	Unlike Grades K-8, which uses instructional minutes allocated in the school day, literacy learning in the high school space uses access to coursework to meet students’ needs. Student are required to have at least one core ELA course each of their four years in high school. In addition, schools offer additional literacy learning through seminar courses that offer literacy foundational skills learning using Orton-Gillingham, as well as a suite of honors, advanced, dual enrollment and elective courses to accelerate students’ learning and prepare them for college and career.

Building a culture of literacy that develops avid readers will dramatically increase students’ academic achievement and equip them with the tools necessary to pursue successful, prosperous lives.

SPELLING BEE

The District is proud to offer an annual Spelling Bee for 5th – 8th grade students. Spelling Bees not only reinforce critical language standards for students, they also generate a sense of pride and accomplishment in each participating classroom.

RISE UP/READ MORE

Rise Up, Read More is a districtwide reading competition that encourages daily at-home reading by K-12 students.

LOCAL AUTHOR’S PANEL

The Local Authors' Panel is an opportunity for local authors to share their craft in DPSCD's classroom libraries to support independent reading.



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