



Division of Equity in Learning
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To: Dr. Floyd Cobb, Executive Director Teaching and Learning
Colorado Department of Education
From: Andre Wright, Chief Academic Officer
Dr. Starla Pearson, Executive Director Curriculum and Instruction
cc: Rico Munn, Superintendent
Date: September 2, 2021
RE: K-3 Reading Resources Transition

During the 2016-2017 school year, Aurora Public Schools went through a comprehensive process to review, pilot, adopt, and purchase curricular resources for K-8 literacy instruction. At that time, two resources were selected and adopted by the APS Board of Education to support K-3 reading instruction: Wonders (McGraw Hill Education, 2017), which is on CDE's current core curricular resource approved advisory list, and Fountas and Pinnell Classroom Phonics, Spelling and Word Study (Heinemann, 2018), which is not on the approved advisory list. School leaders in APS district schools and their instructional teams were left to decide between the two resources, and training and support was provided for either choice. At that time, twelve schools selected Fountas and Pinnell Classroom Phonics, Spelling and Word Study. Since then, three of the twelve have transitioned to use Wonders for their core programming, leaving nine schools continuing to use Fountas and Pinnell for reading instruction.

Also since that time, the READ Act Statute was revised in 2019. This, of course, changed state-level expectations for district-level selection and implementation of reading curricular resources. The revised statute has been interpreted to mean that all curricular resources for K-3 reading instruction must be selected from CDE's approved advisory list; therefore, nine APS schools are using an unapproved resource. Since we have not yet received guidance from CDE on how or when to go about making this transition, this document represents APS's plan to transition all K-3 neighborhood schools into the use of an approved core resource for reading instruction.

2021-2022

- Elementary Literacy Instructional Coordinators will review the approved core K-3 reading resources to determine a viable, cost effective alternative to Fountas and Pinnell.
- Elementary Literacy Instructional Coordinators will work with building leaders from the nine schools currently using Fountas and Pinnell to create a transition plan to a new reading instructional resource for the 2022-2023 school year.
- The Curriculum and Instruction team will complete the APS Board of Education adoption process to ensure compliance with board policy.
- APS will purchase and distribute necessary resources.

2022-2023

- The APS Professional Learning team will support schools transitioning to a new K-3 reading resource with necessary training and professional development.

2025-2026

- As part of the regularly-scheduled curriculum rotation process, the Curriculum and Instruction team will engage in a district-wide process to review, pilot, adopt, and provide professional development for an updated K-3 reading resource, in compliance with the READ Act Statute in selecting a CDE-approved resource, for implementation in the 2026-2027 school year.

Andrew Wang

Ashley Pearson