

Memo

Date: January 5, 2022
To: Colorado Department of Education
From: Matt Reynolds, Learning Services Officer;
Erica Mason, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Re: Elementary Reading Instructional Program Requirements

To Whom it May Concern:

Please accept this letter as response to your request dated October 18, 2021 stating the following:

“CDE is requesting that Douglas County School District RE-1 submit a plan to the department by January 17, 2022, for coming into compliance with statutory requirements for reading instructional programs. At a minimum, the plan should include timelines of activities the district will engage in during the 2021-22 school year such as forming program review committees, conducting program reviews, scheduling presentation of recommendations for the school board, and determining budget sources for purchases.”

Douglas County School District (DCSD) has a plan for all (neighborhood) district schools to meet statutory requirements for reading instructional programs that are scientifically or evidence-based and are on the CDE approved advisory list as outlined below.

January 2021 - May 2021	Completed: DCSD's District leaders, along with the DCSD Curriculum Instruction and Assessment department, reviewed every program on the CDE approved advisory list and collaboratively selected 3 for consideration of approval by the Douglas County Board of Education and to be piloted in select DCSD schools.
April 2021	Completed: Programs selected through the review process were presented to and approved by the DCSD Board of Education. District funds have been approved by the Board of Education and allocated to fully fund a district purchase of approved core reading program(s).
June 2020	Completed: DCSD selected schools to participate in pilot of 3 programs. DCSD Curriculum Instruction and Assessment department outlined requirements for the pilot implementation, ongoing embedded staff development, data collection, and classroom observations as well as providing information to the non-pilot school
August 2021	Completed: Pilot schools completed training for pilot programs respective to school's choice of pilot program.
August 2021-Present	Ongoing: Pilot schools are implementing core reading programs, providing feedback and sharing information with non-pilot schools. Non-pilot schools are evaluating data and feedback from pilot schools and engaging in reviewing resources.
September 2021-Present	Ongoing: Materials are on display for the community both physically and in digital format. Community events have been sponsored both in person and live-streamed for families to learn more about each program. Significant communication to stakeholders and community about the pilot process.
December 2021 - January 2022	Upcoming: All Douglas County Schools will select one of the three piloted programs.

March 2022 - August 2022	Upcoming: Materials will be ordered and shipped. All schools will receive initial implementation training.
August 2022	Upcoming: All Douglas County Schools will begin implementation of the selected core reading program with ongoing implementation evaluation and support from district leaders and departments.

DCSD will be in contact with each of the following charter schools to gather their plans for meeting these requirements.

- DC Montessori Charter School, no published core program in use
- Global Village Academy - Douglas County, no published core program in use
- STEM School Highlands Ranch, no published core program in use