

Into Reading

A comprehensive research-based ELA Curriculum

The science of reading is a vast body of science-based research, conducted over the past 5 decades, across the world (thousands of studies conducted in multiple languages). There is overwhelming evidence to inform how proficient reading and writing skills develop. A key finding is that learning to read and write requires systematic, explicit instruction.

Topsfield's 5-Year Transformation

Topsfield elementary schools began a 5-year science of reading transformation effort in 2020. The initial components of this transformation focused on purchasing supplementary materials for our K-3 students and professional development. This first phase of investments has been proven successful and given us confidence that we should continue with further investment:

- In 2022 and 2023, prior to these changes, only 50-60% of K-1 students were above the 40th percentile at the end of year screenings
- By June 2024, 89% of K students and 83% of 1st grade students were above the same benchmark following classroom implementation and professional development

In order to continue this progress the district needs a high-quality core ELA curriculum program for K-6. The proposed curriculum purchase would replace the current grades K-3 ELA materials which do not meet the state's criteria for high-quality instructional materials and would provide consistent ELA materials for grades 4-6 which the district currently lacks.

Curriculum Selection

A team of educators conducted a year-long review of available K-6 curricula rooted in the science of reading. After piloting 2 options, Into Reading was unanimously selected as the best choice. Into Reading is highly rated by DESE's Curate & EdReports and reflects research-based best practices in literacy instruction.

Details of Into Reading

The curriculum contains hundreds of high quality texts, a focus on vocabulary & knowledge building across subjects, and has frequent opportunities for writing (including a grammar scope & sequence). It has a wide-range of approaches including practice opportunities, project-based learning, and digital components.

Budget Considerations

1. The total cost of the curriculum is \$202,000, which will meet the district's literacy curriculum needs for a period of 6 years, which is the length of a typical curriculum review cycle.
2. When all students receive strong, effective Tier 1 instruction fewer students may require specialized interventions, potentially reducing the need for special education services. We hope to realize future cost savings in special education.