

ONEIDA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Mrs. Jordan Sims, Principal

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RE: Request to change Oneida Elementary School Core Curriculum in Grades K-2

Since the 2020 reading curriculum adoption, our elementary school has implemented the core curriculum materials from the publisher McGraw Hill titled Wonders. This curriculum was one of a few that was included on the available state adoption list, and it also received all green indicators from Ed Reports. It was at this time, our NWEA Benchmark scores as well as TN Ready Scores began to decline. At the end of 2020, the winter benchmark, indicated that 64% of kindergarten children were on grade level or above, 57% of first grade children were on grade level or above, and 56% of 2nd grade children were on grade level or above. There was a slight increase in scores in the 2020-2021 school year with K finishing with 66%, first with 62% and second with 60%. Since then, there has been a steady decline, and kindergarten currently stands at 57% on grade level, first 38%, and second 45%. This coupled with the fact that recent Tn Ready data indicates a severe decline in Science and Social Studies scores at the elementary school. This directly correlates with the foundation of knowledge that our primary grades build when studying general knowledge within the core reading curriculum. The usability of Wonders curriculum is also very poor. It is very hard to navigate the plethora of materials that is provided. It has also been extremely difficult to help teachers engage in the new Unit Prep Protocol as provided by the TDOE in which backwards design is utilized in the planning of knowledge based units. For these reasons, we are requesting that grades K-2 at Oneida Elementary School move from teaching McGraw Hill Wonders to the open source materials as provided by the Tennessee State Department of Education titled, Core Knowledge. The Oneida Elementary School leadership team composed of teachers from each grade level have met, practiced unit prepping with these materials, studied the materials for usability, and visited a school to see the curriculum in action. It's topics vertically align across grade levels building knowledge from the primary grades that will help our grades 3-5 students make connections from the new material to their built background knowledge.

Thank you for consideration of this request,

Denise May
OSSD Reading Director

Jordan Sims
OES Principal