



# WHAT'S NEW IN LITERACY?

Schools in Virginia are using better ways to teach reading and writing following the Virginia Literacy Act (VLA). Based on the Science of Reading, Albemarle County Public Schools is using a new program to help improve reading and writing.

## What is the Virginia Literacy Act?

The Virginia Literacy Act (VLA) is a new law starting in the 2024-2025 school year. It helps school divisions improve the teaching of reading and writing. The VLA provides teachers, families, and students the tools to guide teaching and support learning.

## What is the Science of Reading?

For more than 50 years, scientists have studied how our brains learn. The Science of Reading is research that helps identify the best methods and strategies for teaching children how to read.

## Moving to HMH Into Reading Virginia

Through the VLA, school divisions had six options of reading programs to choose from. We worked with teachers, families, and community members to review the six programs. Our committee then chose Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) Into Reading Virginia.

## How do I know what my child is learning?

Each HMH Into Reading module (unit) starts with a letter from teachers about what students will be learning. The letters are one page long and explain what is involved in the module. The letters also give families ideas about how to help their students with reading and writing at home.

## How do I help my student at home?

Teaching doesn't stop when the school day ends. That's why HMH has the Family Room. The Family Room is a website where families can find tools to help be a part of their child's learning. *To access HMH Family Room, log in to the student's HMH Ed account through ClassLink, click on the student's icon in the top right corner and select 'Family Room' from the dropdown menu. Find ACPS's Classlink at: [launchpad.classlink.com/k12albemarle](https://launchpad.classlink.com/k12albemarle).*

**CLASSLINK**



# HMH INTO READING COMPONENTS

HMH Into Reading lessons focus on five different ways students learn reading and writing. These lessons include writing practice, building foundational skills, reading authentic literature, learning and practicing vocabulary, and flexible group skills.

## Writing

Teachers lead students through a step-by-step writing process. Daily practice and feedback helps students become better writers.

## Structured Literacy and Foundational Skills

Students learn letter sounds, how to put sounds together to read words and how to break sounds apart to spell words. Students learn how to spell words that have regular or unusual spelling patterns. Students in upper grades learn where words come from and how adding beginnings or endings to words can change their meaning.

## Reading and Vocabulary

Students read books that capture their attention and teach them about the world. Students have their own workbooks where they can read, respond to reading, and write down their ideas and make connections. Teachers help students learn how to make meaning of words they don't know. They use these new words in their writing and speaking. Expanding vocabulary increases reading comprehension across all content areas.

## Knowledge Building

Each HMH Into Reading module is based on a different science or a social studies concept. This helps students learn more about topics that interest them and helps them connect to learning they are doing in other subjects.

## Flexible Skill Groups

Teachers provide students with one-on-one or small group teaching while other students practice taught skills. These small skills groups change daily depending on the needs of the students.

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