

## Information for Parents: New Resource for K-5 English Language Arts

GCPS has excellent teachers, strong leaders and a wealth of support from parents and the community. We are dedicated to providing our teachers with the best resources possible to ensure students learn the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in college, career, and life. GCPS has adopted **EL Education** as the new resource to support teachers of English Language Arts (ELA) in grades K-5 for Tier 1 instruction.

## What is EL Education?



The EL Education Language Arts materials are aligned to our GCPS AKS and include evidenced-based instructional practices aligned to Science of Reading research.

The EL Education materials engage students through compelling, real-word content. Classrooms are structured with highly collaborative activities that allow students to engage in academic conversations and investigations of rich academic topics. EL Education aims to contribute to students' ability to be globally competitive through the mastery of knowledge and skills, the development of character, and emphasizing high-quality student work.

### Learning with EL Education is...

#### **ACTIVE**

Students are scientists, urban planners, and historians as they investigate real community problems and collaborate with peers to develop creative, actionable solutions.

#### **CHALLENGING**

Students at all levels are pushed and supported to do more than they think they can. Excellence is expected in the quality of their work and their thinking.

#### **MEANINGFUL**

Students apply their skills and knowledge to real-world issues and make positive change in their communities. They see the relevance of their learning and are motivated by understanding that learning has purpose.

#### **PUBLIC**

Through formal structures of presentation, exhibition, critique, and data analysis, students and teachers build a shared vision of pathways to achievement.

#### **COLLABORATIVE**

School leaders, teachers, students, and families share rigorous expectations for quality work, achievement, and behavior. Trust, respect, responsibility, and joy in learning permeate the school culture.

# How Does EL Education's Curriculum Align to the Science of Reading?

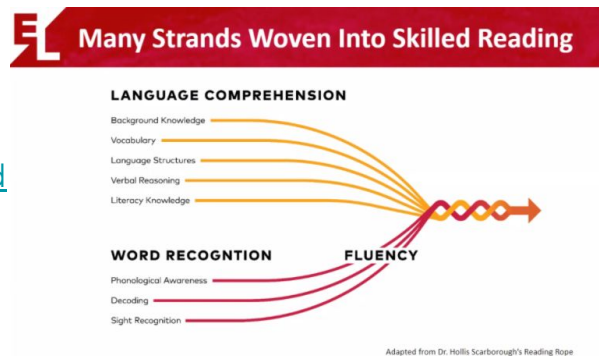
## What is the Science of Reading?

According to [The Reading League's Defining Guide](#), "The science of reading is a vast, interdisciplinary body of scientifically-based research about reading and issues related to reading and writing. This research has been conducted over the last five decades across the world, and it is derived from thousands of studies conducted in multiple languages. The science of reading has culminated in a preponderance of evidence to inform how proficient reading and writing develop; why some have difficulty; and how we can most effectively assess and teach and, therefore, improve student outcomes through prevention of and intervention for reading difficulties."

The EL Education Language Arts materials are aligned to our GCPS AKS and to evidence-based practices outlined in Science of Reading research. The materials include a structured and systematic [phonics scope and sequence](#) to ensure students develop strong foundational skills. In addition, EL Education includes rich and systematic knowledge and vocabulary building opportunities that grow across grade levels ([K-2 Curriculum Plan](#) and [3-5 Curriculum Plan](#)). There are three components included in the materials.

- **K-2 Reading Foundations Skills Block:** Based on Ehri's Phases of Reading, the phonics-based lessons are grounded in reading science and the assessments guide whole group and small group instruction. These lessons help students crack the alphabetic code, become fluent readers, and, ultimately, comprehend text.
- **K-5 Content-Based Literacy Modules:** The knowledge-building modules use trade books, authentic literature, and high-interest texts to provide rich learning opportunities where students actively build deep knowledge and expand their vocabulary to support their reading comprehension and writing.
- **3-5 Additional Language & Literacy (ALL) Block:** Guided by assessment, the differentiated lessons provide students with small group learning opportunities aligned to word study, grammar, fluency, comprehension, and independent reading to address students' needs.

[Click here](#) to read how the Science of Reading is at the heart of the EL Education curriculum.



Students need both **content-based literacy** and **explicit skills-based** instruction on decoding and fluency. The visual model of Scarborough's Reading Rope, a model informed by the Science of Reading, is vital because it ensures that we are providing instruction in both word recognition and language comprehension which leads to skilled reading. EL Education provides instruction in both areas, ensuring that through repetitive exposures and practice we can support each and every student.

Visit [eleducation.org](https://eleducation.org) to learn more.

