



Elementary Reading Curriculum Pilot Update

Board of Education
January 29, 2025



NUMBER 1 FACTOR
HIGH QUALITY TEACHING

What does high quality, culturally relevant teaching require?

**High
Quality, Culturally
Affirming, Rigorous
Curriculum**



**Equity Mindset
Centered Professional
Learning
& Coaching**



**Engaging,
Affirming,
Equitable Practices**

Rigorous Curriculum Selection Process

- Curricula selected for pilot meet **all standards for rigor, cultural responsiveness, accessibility, and efficacy**, including evidence based reviews such as EdReports.
- Pilots are designed to ensure that **either curricula are of the highest quality**.
- Pilots are intended to provide testing ground across all stakeholders to identify curricula of **best fit for the Ann Arbor Public Schools**.

What is ELA?

Components of ELA/ Literacy in K-5

Writing



Reading

Foundational Skills

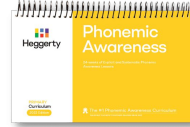
Speaking and Listening

Language

Current AAPS Literacy Program Components

**Word Study:
Phonemic Awareness**

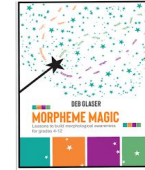
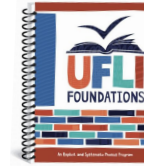
**Heggerty
10 mins**



**New:
2022-2023**

**Word Study: Phonics
and Word Analysis**

**UFLI Foundations (K-2)/ Morpheme Magic (3-5)
or Foundations
30 mins
15 mins**



**New:
2023-2024**

Reading

**Mini Lesson
10 mins**

**Application & Small Groups
30 mins**

**Share
5 mins**

**MAISA
Units of
Study,
2012**

Writing

**Mini Lesson
10 mins**

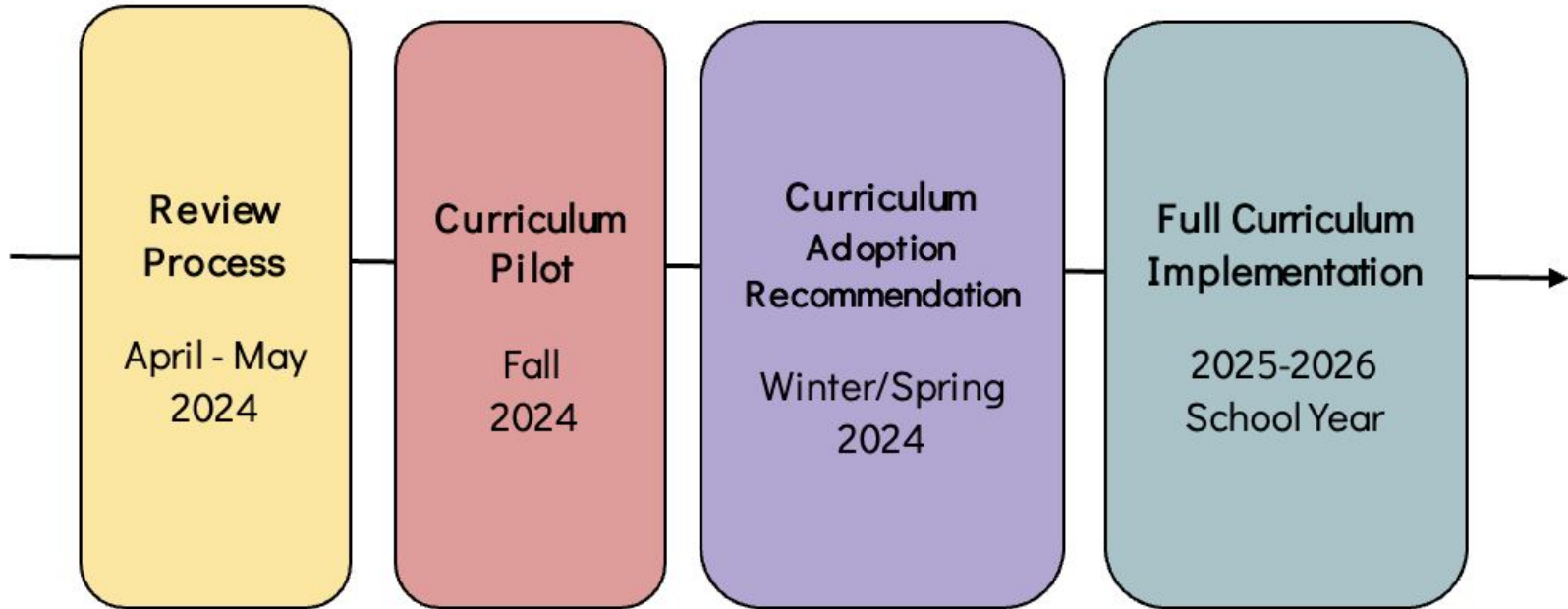
**Application & Small Groups
30 mins**

**Share
5 mins**

35j Grant Funding

- ✓ Provide professional learning for all pre-K to grade 5 teachers, administrators, and instructional coaches in literacy instruction best practices.
- ✓ Complement existing efforts to improve literacy instruction.
- ✓ Develop and implement a comprehensive literacy system.
- ✓ Use a valid screening tool, as determined by MDE, to identify gaps in current literacy practices and complete a needs assessment.
- ✓ Literacy curriculum eligible for funding must be aligned to reading science.

Elementary Reading Curriculum Pilot Timeline



Support from Student Achievement Partners



Carey Swanson
Director(Literacy)



Tina Starks
Specialist (Literacy)

Student Achievement Partners has expertly facilitated the review and pilot process alongside our teachers and leaders focusing on building capacity across the pilot teams and ensuring the curriculum pilot and ultimate recommendation is truly driven by educators to best serve the unique needs of our students.

The recommendation forthcoming will make it possible to transform teaching and learning in the Ann Arbor Public Schools.

Ongoing feedback (including Learning Walks, Surveys, and Interview Protocols) has been employed throughout the process.

Curriculum Review Committee

A representative team of AAPS staff, administrators and experts convened for several days to analyze the top curriculum materials on the market.

The nineteen-member review committee represented thirteen elementary schools.

- 7 classroom teachers
- 3 Building Literacy Coaches (BLCs)
- 4 building-based Special Education, Title I, and English Learner representatives
- 1 principal
- 1 field expert and community member
- 1 Director of Federal and State Grants and Special Programs
- 1 MTSS Administrator
- 1 ELA Curriculum Coordinator

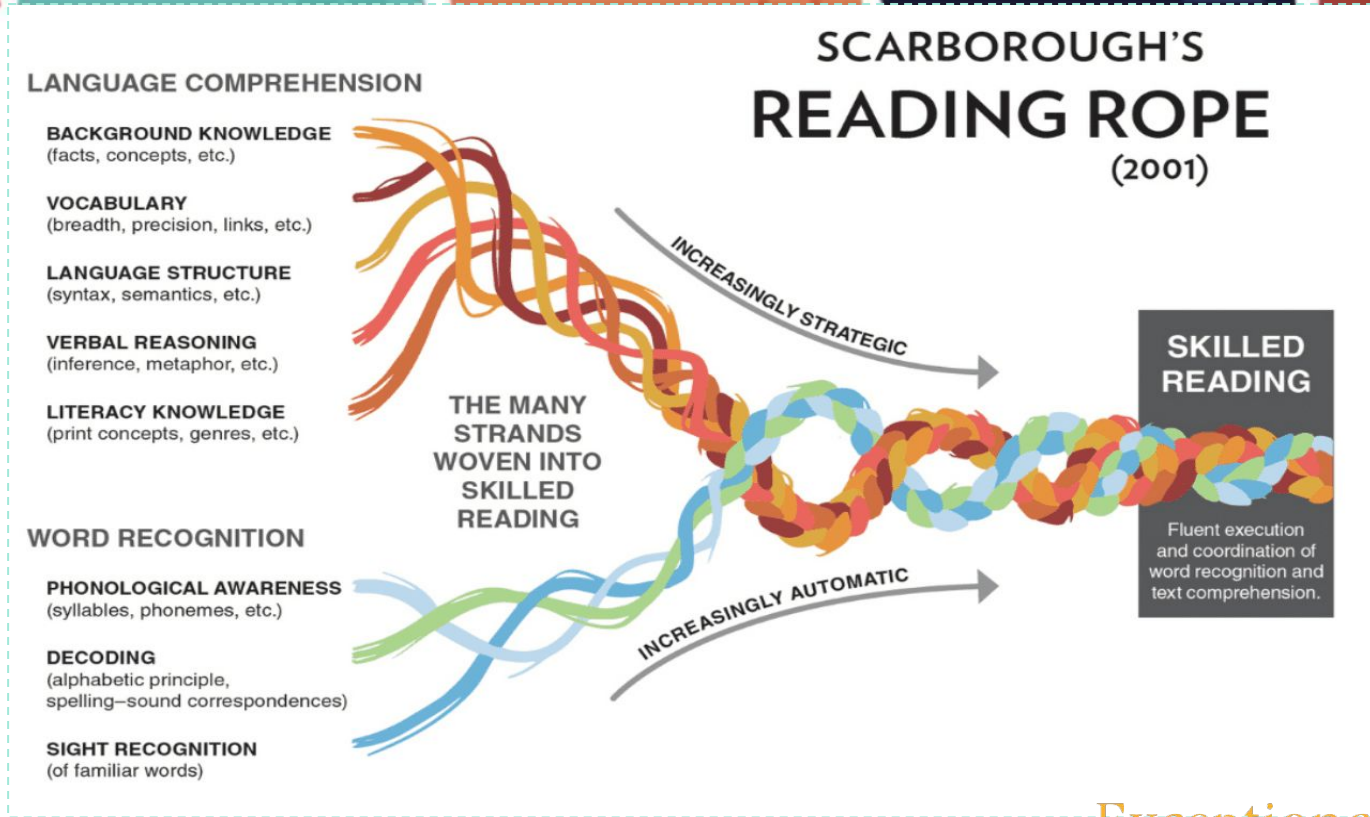
Curriculum Review Recommendations & Criteria

Using a comprehensive science of reading aligned rubric, the committee arrived at the recommendation to pilot two curricula this fall.

[Open Up Resources, Bookworms](#) and [Great Minds, Wit and Wisdom](#).

- ❑ Close Reading of Complex Texts
- ❑ Building Vocabulary/Academic Language
- ❑ Volume of Reading to Build Knowledge
- ❑ Evidence-Based Discussions and Tasks
- ❑ Real World Connections
- ❑ Text Selections to Support Language Development
- ❑ Prominent Writing Opportunities
- ❑ Supports for All Students
- ❑ Affirm & Center Students
- ❑ Literacy as a Tool for Criticality
- ❑ Multilingualism in Literacy
- ❑ Language Objectives & English Language Development (ELD) Coherence

Science of Reading



Bookworms = Comprehensive Literacy Program

Word Study:
Phonemic Awareness

Word Study: Phonics
and Word Analysis

Reading

Writing

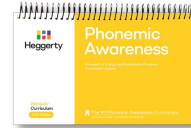
Bookworms



Wit and Wisdom = Reading and Writing Program

Word Study:
Phonemic Awareness

Heggerty
10 mins



Word Study: Phonics
and Word Analysis

UFLI Foundations (K-2)/ Morpheme Magic (3-5)
or Foundations
30 mins
15 mins



Reading

Wit and Wisdom

Writing



Bookworms

Wit and Wisdom

**3 Blocks of Instruction:
Shared Reading, ELA, DI**

**Comprehensive
Program- Replaces
Heggerty, UFLI &
Foundations**

**Includes Small Group
Instruction**



**Knowledge
Building**

**High quality
grade level texts**

**Reading and
Writing**

**Common Core
Standards Aligned**

**Research
Supported**

**Implemented in
local schools**

**Explicit Vocabulary
Instruction**

**One Instructional
Block**

**Stand Alone Reading and
Writing Program
UFLI/Foundations/Heggerty
Continue**

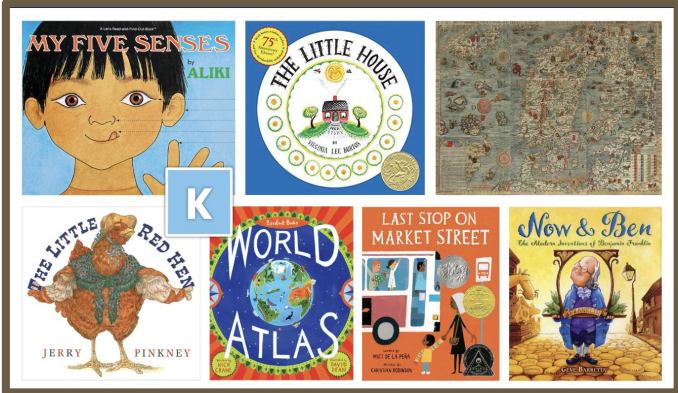
Study of Fine Art



Text Complexity



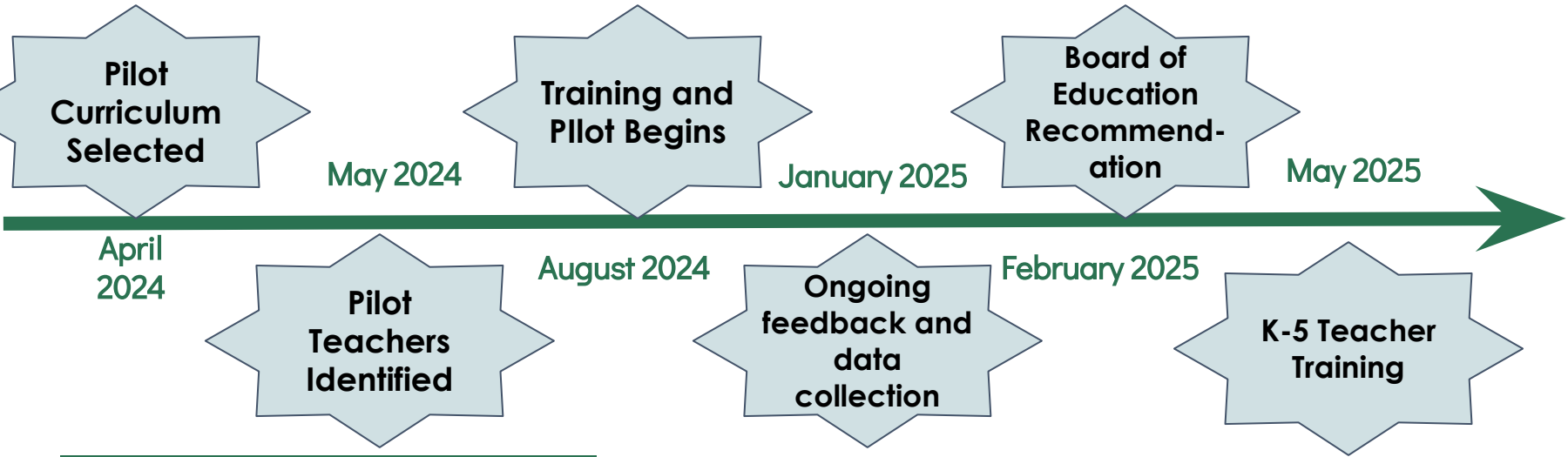
Bookworms



Wit & Wisdom



Pilot Process Overview



18 Schools
100 Teachers and Coaches
K-5 Representation

Pilot Teachers & Coaches - Thank you!

A2 Open 1st/2nd, 3rd/4th, 5th	A2 Steam 4th	Abbot K, 1st, 5th
Allen K, 1st, 4th	Bach K, 1st, 4th	Bryant 2nd
Burns Park K, 2nd	Carpenter 1st, 3rd	Dicken K, 1st, 5th
Eberwhite K, 3rd	Haisley 1st	King 2nd, 3rd
Lakewood K, 2nd	Logan K, 4th	Mitchell K, 2nd
Pittsfield 1st, 4th, 5th	Thurston 1st, 4th	Wines K, 1st, 2nd

Pilot Teacher Professional Learning and Support

Professional Learning Community Weekly Meetings

- Co-planning
- Data sharing
- Student work analysis
- Norming
- Differentiating
- Analyzing complex texts

Co-Teaching

- Co-planned
- Lead lesson components
- Support small groups
- Provide targeted student support
- Co-lead full lessons

Professional Learning Monthly

- Address challenges
- Grade level collaborations
- Identify strategies and enhancements

Building Administrator Professional Learning Series

01 > Framing the WHY

October 8, 2024

02 > Text Complexity

November 12, 2024

03 > Questions & Tasks

January 14, 2025

04 > Building Knowledge

February 11, 2025

05 > Foundational Skills

March 11, 2025

06 > A Critical Lens for Materials

April 8, 2025

Building Administrator Professional Learning Series

Early Principal Feedback

The article was really on point for our discussion and thinking about how we engage students in literacy instruction.

I appreciated time to examine lessons from W & W and Bookworms.

I loved reading and discussing the article and discussing equity in regards to student materials.

Pilot Engagement with Caregivers and Students

- Curriculum Night Pilot Presentations
- Regular Pilot Updates
- Caregiver Survey
- Conferences
- Student Interviews and Student Work Analysis
- Pending Board approval, community meetings are planned to introduce the curriculum and engage with all families.

Pilot Engagement with Caregivers



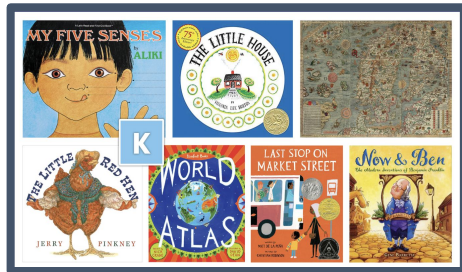
“My daughter shares that she feels she is becoming a **more fluent reader**. She enjoys working in a small group with her teacher and shares the new phonics skills she has learned. She also shares the knowledge she has learned from her ELA and shared reading books. Recently, **she asked to visit a place where she could see homes built by the Hopi people**. She also asks to check out more **books from a series she has read as part of the Bookworms curriculum**. She shares **new vocabulary** she has learned and writing pieces that she has crafted.”



- Bookworms Caregiver

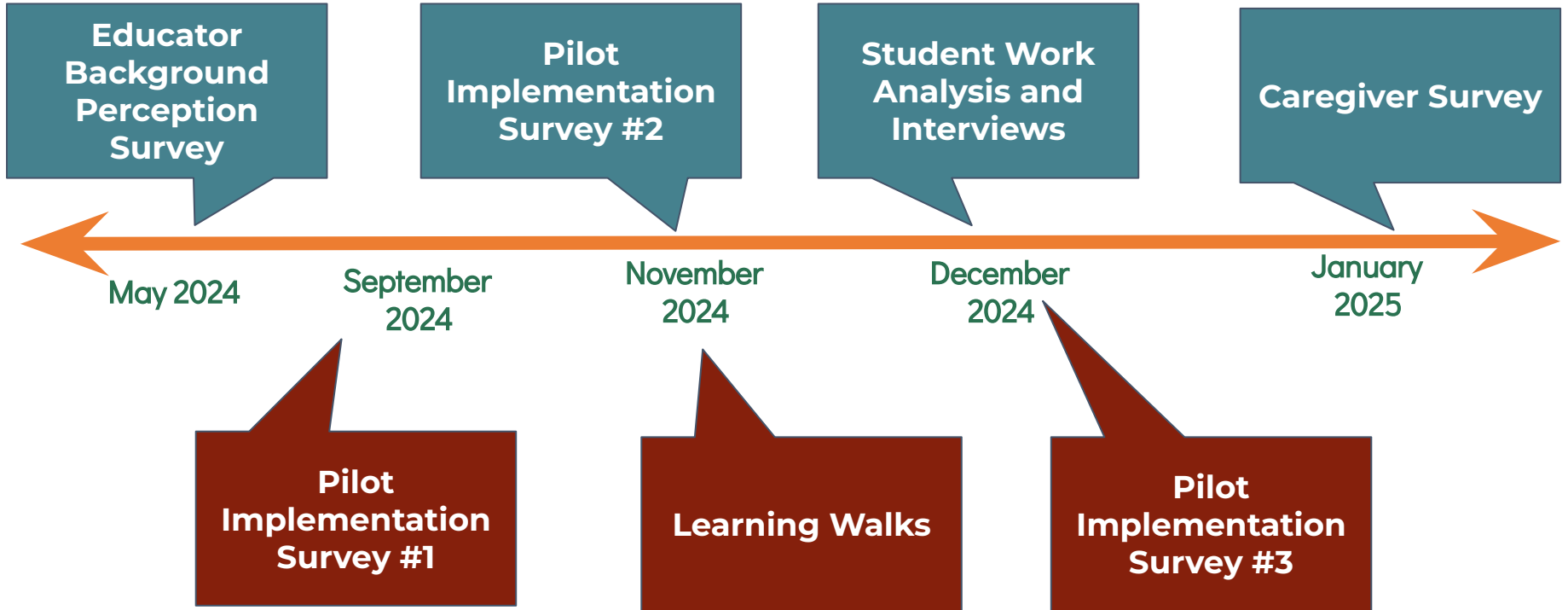
Pilot Engagement with Caregivers

“My son constantly **talks about what he has been reading in class.** Anytime we read a story or watch a movie together now **he talks about what he thinks the essential meaning is and asks us to talk about it with him.** He seems to have really enjoyed the approach and is **making huge progress in both reading and writing this year.**”



- Wit and Wisdom Caregiver

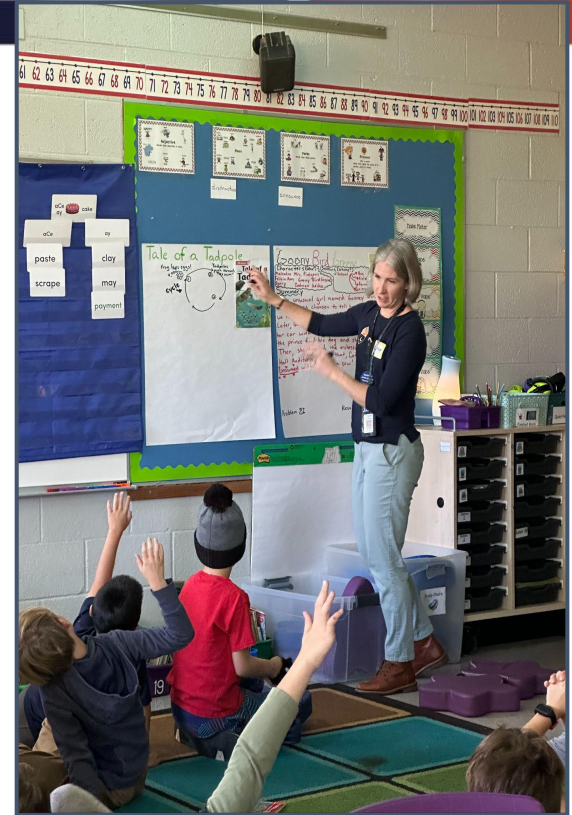
Ongoing Pilot Data Collection and Feedback Cycle



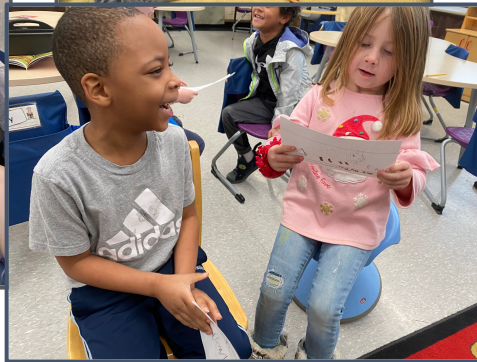
What are teachers sharing?

“Students are highly **engaged** in **meaningful** and **joyful learning** that is **inclusive** to all members of the learning community. Together we are building a strong **foundation of common content based knowledge.**”

-Kindergarten Teacher



What are teachers sharing?



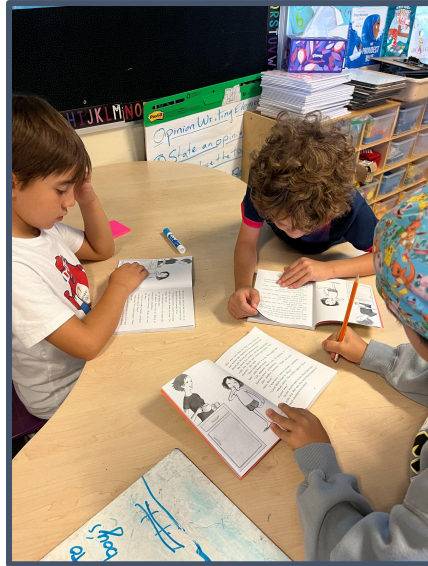
“The **connection between reading and writing** felt so authentic for our students. It was **engaging for ALL students** and motivated them to write in a way that felt different. The **materials are allowing kids to reach their fullest potential.** “

– 1st Grade Teacher

What are teachers sharing?

“The materials were well-organized and **rich in content**, which made my lesson planning more efficient. My students have been **engaged in deep understanding and critical thinking**. Overall, the materials made my teaching smoother and more impactful, and I have seen **notable improvements in student participation and comprehension!**”

-3rd Grade Teacher



What are teachers sharing?

“For students, Wit and Wisdom offers the opportunity to develop a **deeper understanding of texts, improve analytical skills, and engage in meaningful discussions.** By focusing on **knowledge-building** through authentic texts, students can enhance their **critical thinking, writing, and vocabulary skills** while exploring relevant and thought-provoking themes. These opportunities can lead to greater academic **confidence** and long-term success.”

- Wit & Wisdom Teacher



What are teachers sharing?



“The writing pieces that my students have produced so far in first grade are exceptionally better than the writing pieces previous students have crafted. The writing lessons really lay out the subject/predicate and how to structure a sentence. I think this really helped my **students feel comfortable and capable in writing** when it came to our first culminating task. The **kids love the Interactive Read Alouds**, and the discussion/comprehension questions always elicit **insightful conversations** from my students.”

- Bookworms Teacher



Next Steps

- Final report from Student Achievement Partners
- Data synthesis and Review Team meetings
- Recommendation Q&A with Pilot Teachers
- Final Recommendation to the Board of Education

Support from Student Achievement Partners

- How do you sort through the long list of strong curricula to find the one that is right for your district?
- Which one will best serve my unique student population?
- Which curricula do a good job of supporting multilingual learners?
- Which curricula are culturally responsive and sustaining for learners from diverse backgrounds?
- Which resources and supports can help my teachers through this transition?
- How can I make sure we're not just swapping textbooks, but transforming instruction?

[The SAP approach](#) is grounded in the latest pedagogical research and balances both the essential (grade-level, standards-aligned) and equitable (responsive to the individual student)