

INSTRUCTIONReading/Language Arts Instruction

The Governing Board recognizes that reading and other language arts constitute the basic foundation for learning in other areas of study. The Board desires to offer a comprehensive, balanced reading/language arts program that ensures all students have the skills necessary to read fluently and for meaning and develops students' appreciation for literature. The program shall integrate reading and oral and written language arts activities in order to build effective communication skills.

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

For each grade level, the Board shall adopt academic standards that meet or exceed Common Core State Standards in the following strands:

1. Reading: Foundational skills, text complexity and analysis, and the growth of comprehension
2. Writing: Text types, responding to reading, production and distribution of writings, and research
3. Speaking and listening: Oral language development, comprehension, flexible communication, and collaboration
4. Language: Conventions, effective use, knowledge of language, and vocabulary

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the district's reading/language arts program offers sufficient access to standards-aligned textbooks and other instructional materials. The program shall provide instructional materials of varying levels of difficulty, including fiction and nonfiction works, so that students are continually reading at an appropriate level. In addition, technology should be available to support all areas of literacy.

(cf. 6141 - Curriculum Development and Evaluation)

(cf. 6161.1 - Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials)

(cf. 6161.11 - Supplementary Instructional Materials)

(cf. 6163.1 - Library Media Centers)

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Grades K-3

The goal of the district's early literacy program shall be to ensure that students are able to read fluently and at grade level by the end of third grade. To reach this goal, the

Superintendent or designee shall design a balanced and comprehensive reading/language arts program with the following components:

1. Explicit skill development for beginning readers that includes phonemic awareness, phonics and decoding skills, and sufficient practice and repetition of these skills
2. A strong literature, language and comprehension program that includes a balance of oral and written language
3. Ongoing diagnosis of individual students' skills
4. An early intervention program that provides assistance to children at risk of reading failure

Grades 4-12

The Board recognizes that reading/language arts instruction is an integral component of the curriculum at all grade levels. Continuous progress in fluency and comprehension shall be the goal of reading/language arts instruction in grades 4-12.

The program in these grades shall promote reading for subject matter comprehension, developing understanding of progressively more advanced reading material, analyzing and discussing a variety of reading materials, increasing the frequency of reading, developing more complex writing skills with attention to composition and vocabulary, and developing other communications skills.

When students in these grades do not have fully developed reading/language arts skills, the Superintendent or designee shall make resources available to assist them in reaching a reading level sufficient to meet the demands of grade-level material. Staff at all grade levels and in every subject shall take responsibility for supporting and expanding students' literacy skills.

Supplementary Reading Instruction

To assist those students who are experiencing difficulty learning to read and to increase the reading skills and reading enjoyment of all students, the Board may offer elementary students in grades K-4 increased instructional opportunities outside the regular school session.

(cf. 5148.2 - Before/After School Programs)

(cf. 6174 - Education for English Language Learners)

(cf. 6176 - Weekend/Saturday Classes)

(cf. 6177 - Summer Learning Programs)

(cf. 6179 - Supplemental Instruction)

Superintendent or designee shall make available professional development opportunities that are designed to provide instructional staff with knowledge about how students develop language skills, the ability to analyze students' literacy levels, and mastery of a variety of instructional strategies and materials.

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4222 - Teacher Aides/Paraprofessionals)

(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)
(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

Superintendent or designee shall provide the Board with data from state and district reading assessments and program evaluations to enable the Board to monitor program effectiveness.

(cf. 0500 - Accountability)
(cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)
(cf. 6162.51 - State Academic Achievement Tests)
(cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)
(cf. 6190 - Evaluation of the Instructional Program)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

41505-41508 Pupil Retention Block Grant
41530-41532 Professional Development Block Grant
44735 Teaching as a Priority Block Grant
44755-44757.5 Teacher Reading Instruction Development Program, K-3
51210 Areas of study, grades 1-6
51220 Areas of study, grades 7-12
60119 Sufficiency of textbooks and instructional materials
60200.4 Fundamental skills
60207 Curriculum frameworks
60350-60352 Core reading program instructional materials
60605 State-adopted content and performance standards in core curricular areas
60605.8 Common Core standards
99220-99221 California Reading Professional Development Institutes
99230-99242 Mathematics and Reading Professional Development Program (AB 466 trainings)
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
9535 Purchase of nonadopted core reading program instructional materials
11980-11985 Mathematics and Reading Professional Development Program (AB 466 trainings)
11991-11991.2 Reading First achievement index
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20
6381-6381k Even Start Family Literacy Program
6383 Improving literacy through school libraries

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Governing to the Core, Governance Briefs

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

California Common Core State Standards: English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects, March 2013

Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts, August 2010

English Language Arts/English Language Development Framework for California Public Schools: Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve

Recommended Literature: Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education, Reading/Language Arts: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/rl>

Policy adopted: 7/23/02

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