What is phonics?

Phonics instruction teaches the link between sounds (phonemes) and letters (graphemes) so kids can read and spell. It's usually explicit, systematic, and often multisensory, helping students blend sounds to read words and segment sounds to spell them.

What does it look like in instruction?

Phonemes → the smallest units of sound in spoken language (like /m/, /a/, /t/).
Graphemes → the letters or letter combinations that represent those sounds ("m," "a," "t").

So when a child learns that the letters c-a-t stand for the sounds /k/ /a/ /t/, they can blend those sounds together to read "cat."

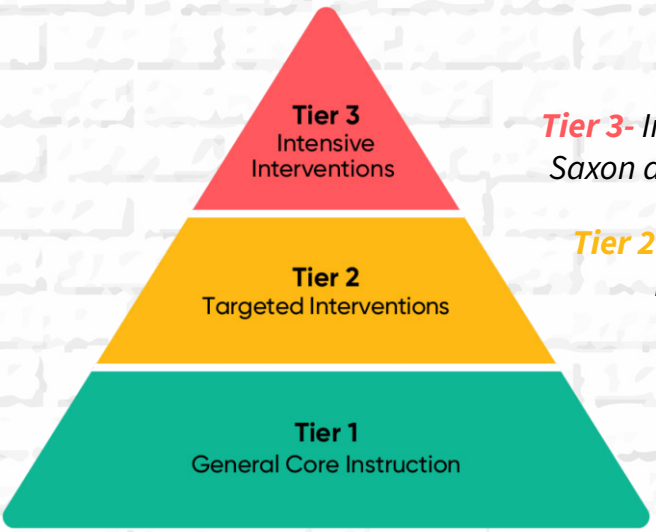


How is *Phonics* related to the *Science of Reading?*

The science of reading is the body of research on how people learn to read, and it shows that phonics is a key piece of effective reading instruction. *So phonics isn't the whole science of reading—* but the science of reading says systematic phonics instruction is necessary for most learners to become skilled readers.

How will DCSS adhere to Georgia's Literacy Law?

Identify reading gaps early, using state-approved screeners. *(Amira 3x per year)*
Train teachers to use structured, evidence-based methods—especially phonics. *(HGRESA Specialists)*
Ensure children learn to **decode words**, not guess them. (*Through daily Phonics instruction)*
Monitor progress, intervene early, and support all students. *(Using the tiered approach below)*



Phonics per Tier in DCSS

Tier 3- *Intense Phonics Instruction through Max Scholar- Ortan Gillgnham; Saxon and UFLI are available for extra support. IXL at Middle School level.*

Tier 2- *Saxon Phonics and UFLI material in small groups. SRA Corrective Reading, One on One reading time with immediate correction and feedback.*

Tier 1- *Reading Wonders (GaDOE recommended), Saxon, UFLI, Small group reading instruction*