

BENTONVILLE SCHOOLS
K-12 LITERACY PLAN
2024-2025

INTRODUCTION

The Bentonville Schools Literacy Plan encompasses the critical work taking place within our district to ensure that all students are able to read and comprehend at or above their current grade-level. Contained within this document is the framework that guides our efforts.

ELEMENTARY

Teaching students to read is our critical mission at the elementary level as reading is foundational for all subject areas. Two main areas of reading are addressed within our elementary reading instructional plan, decoding and language comprehension, which students must master in order to comprehend what they are reading.

(Decoding x Language Comprehension = Reading Comprehension)

In kindergarten and first grade, each of these components is addressed separately. Decoding instruction focuses on explicit instruction in Phonological and Phonemic Awareness as well as systematic phonics instruction. Comprehension is addressed through instruction that builds oral language, background knowledge, and vocabulary. Students begin to practice bringing the components together through decodable text and shared experiences. Second grade begins the transformation towards independent reading comprehension. Each side of the reading equation is addressed separately through explicit instruction and begins to evolve toward independent reading comprehension. In third and fourth grade, the decoding side of the equation is addressed through word study that focuses on morphology. Reading comprehension is deepened through more complex texts and continued instruction in reading comprehension strategies. All students are assessed through a screening process to ensure grade level mastery of reading skills. (See Outline Below)

ASSESSMENTS

- [Assessments - Explanation and Timing](#)

CURRICULUM and INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES

- [Curriculum and Instructional Resources](#)

INTERVENTIONS

- [Interventions](#)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

- [Professional Development Plan](#)

MIDDLE-LEVEL

Because we know from the science of reading that Decoding x Language Comprehension = Reading Comprehension, these areas are the focus of literacy instruction at the middle level. For decoding, the emphasis is placed on multisyllabic words and morphology. Language comprehension is explicitly taught and practiced across grades 5-8, with emphasis on vocabulary, comprehension strategies, verbal reasoning, and syntax in increasingly complex texts. All students are assessed through a screening process to ensure grade-level mastery of reading skills, and interventions are used as appropriate to close gaps in decoding and/or comprehension.

ASSESSMENTS

- [Universal Screening and Intervention Diagnostic](#)

CURRICULUM and INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES

- [Curriculum and Instructional Resources](#), including interventions

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

- [Literacy Professional Development Plan](#)

SECONDARY

The focus at the secondary level is to strengthen literacy development across content areas with a focus on reading comprehension. Literacy development is monitored through regularly scheduled reading assessments as outlined in the Bentonville Schools Literacy Intervention Flowchart. Struggling readers receive appropriate interventions to fill gaps in phonological awareness, decoding, fluency, and comprehension following the Bentonville Schools Literacy Intervention flowchart. These students are supported in literacy improvement through additional strategic reading classes such as Academic Reading, Strategic Reading, and Transitional English IV. These interventions follow a specified curriculum to fill gaps and explicitly teach comprehension strategies. Teachers and students are supported by building and district-level specialists and interventionists, and all certified staff receive on-going professional development to ensure that all teachers demonstrate an awareness or proficiency in the Science of Reading.

ASSESSMENTS

- [High School](#)

CURRICULUM and INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES

- [Curriculum and Instructional Resources](#), including interventions

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

- [Literacy Professional Development Plan](#)