PSUSD
PALM SPRINGS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

PSUSD Elementary Agreements 2026-2027

K-5 Expectations

Time Allocation

Palm Springs Unified School District (PSUSD) is committed to using state-adopted curricula to ensure high-quality, standards-based instruction for all students. Our adopted curricula includes Wonders/Maravillas for ELA/SLA, Bridges for Math, Amplify for Science, and Studies Weekly for Social Studies. District-approved supplements include Heggerty, Kid Lips/Sound Walls, Advanced Word Study, Mental Math Routines, UFLI (intervention), Estrellita, Lunita, Escalera, Ladrillos and cross linguistic connections. A Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) is implemented to ensure students receive targeted intervention and enrichment to meet grade-level standards. All students are given the STAR test and a reading screener each trimester with ongoing progress monitoring. English Language Learners (3rd-5th grade) are progressed monitored using interim assessments throughout the year. PSUSD is dedicated to ensuring access for all students to resources, diverse cultural representation, data-informed instruction, and equitable participation.

Integrated ELD

Math

Math Block:
60 minutes Bridges ***daily*** math lesson
20 minutes Number Corner

What is it?
Bridges math instruction focuses on hands-on, problem-solving activities to help students deeply understand math concepts. It uses models, strategies, manipulatives, real-world connections, and collaborative learning to actively engage students and strengthen their skills.

What it looks like:
- Number Corner
- Workplaces
- Talk moves
- Mental math routines
- Launch, explore, summarize
- Small group instruction

Expectation:
- Complete Bridges units 1-7
- 2-3 units per trimester

Science

Science Block:
K-2: Complete 1 unit per trimester
3-5: Complete 1-2 units per trimester
Scope and Sequence

What is it?
Engaging students in hands-on, inquiry-based science lessons using ***Amplify*** curriculum. Instruction is 3-dimensional, highlighting Science & Engineering Practices as thinking tools to promote critical thinking skills and a scientifically based understanding of the universe.

What it looks like:
- Hands-on, inquiry-based lessons
- Phenomenon first instruction scaffolded with literacy strategies
- Claim, evidence, reasoning
- Modeling
- Naturally supporting peer collaboration

5th grade students receive 5 puberty lessons using **Puberty Talks**.

Social Studies

Social Studies Block:
Minimum one lesson per week

What is it?
Instruction uses ***Studies Weekly*** to engage students in interactive learning about history, geography, economics, and government. Instruction moves beyond rote memorization to focus on critical thinking.

What it looks like:
- Developing skills related to content inquiry
- Content specific support for student reading and writing
- Fostering civic engagement
- Evidence-based writing that emphasizes the development of student content knowledge

3rd grade students also explore content through the **Agua Caliente units**. 4th grade students also receive district-approved FAIR Act lessons via Studies Weekly.

Designated ELD

Designated ELD Structures:
30 minutes ELD / 5 days a week
45 minutes ELD / 4 days a week

What is it?
A protected time where **English Learner** students in SEI/DI receive explicit instruction of ELD standards based on their English language proficiency level. Instruction uses ***Wonders ELD*** and approved supplemental material to develop language skills and provide explicit practice of ELPAC task types.

Approved Supplemental Material: Summit K12 (3-5), non-standardized IAs, Thinking Maps, Listenwise, and Ellevation strategies.

What it looks like:
- Grades 1-5 **rotate** in groups by proficiency level (DI rotates 2nd-5th)
- EOs receive instruction to meet their needs in language development

Standards based instructional agreements:
- Collaborative conversations
- Building academic language
- Teaching how English works to make meaning

Universal Design for Learning, Oral Language, Thinking Maps, Writing, & Assessment

Portrait of a Graduate: Collaboration | Communication | Problem Solving | Work Ethic

Social Emotional Learning (SEL)
SEL is integrated and supported by Second Step (24 lessons). SEL and college and career lessons are also provided by the school counselor.

Classroom Environment
A positive classroom environment is one where students feel safe, supported, and engaged. Key curriculum artifacts include the K-2 Kid Lips Sound Wall, K-5 Sound Spelling Cards, K-5 Thinking Maps, K-5 Number Corner, curriculum vocabulary, and posted evidence of current student learning. The classroom layout should feature flexible seating arrangements for collaborative conversations, group work, and small group instruction, with clean and organized spaces that support learning.

Elementary Enrichment Activities
Students participate in 200 minutes of enrichment per week. These may include a combination of PE, Music, STEAM, and Library. 1st- 5th must have 100 minutes of P.E. weekly.

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Core ELA Instruction
80 minutes (M, T, TH, F) / 60 minutes (W & Minimum Days)
DI SLA Follow Language Allocation Plan
Instruction using Wonders focusing on phonemic awareness, phonics, reading comprehension, vocabulary, and writing in response to reading.

Small Group ELA/DI SLA Instruction: 40-60 minutes (M, T, TH, F)
Differentiated, skill-based instruction to meet **ALL** students' needs. Small groups should be flexible and change regularly based on benchmark and progress monitoring data.

Word Recognition

Literacy Block:
Kindergarten-2nd Grade: 45 minutes
3rd-5th Grade: 20 minutes

What is it?
Daily instruction in sounds, letters, words, syllable analysis, vocabulary, and spelling strategies *using* ***Wonders/Maravillas*** *and* ***district approved supplements***.

What it looks like:
Phonemic Awareness
- Heggerty: K-2
- Kid Lips: Sound Walls K-2

Phonics
- Blending routines: K-2
- Phoneme-grapheme mapping: K-2
- Heart words: K-2
- Decodable text: K-2
- Fluency: K-5
- Syllabication: 1-5
- Morphology - prefixes & suffixes (K-5) Root words (4-5)
- DI Estrellita (K-1), DI Lunita (2), DI Escalera (3)
- Ladrillos (K-2)
- Ladrillos Plus (3-5)

Language Comprehension

Literacy Block:
Kindergarten- 2nd Grade: 35 minutes
3rd-5th Grade: 60 minutes

What is it?
Instruction using ***Wonders/Maravillas*** to teach the use of spoken or written language to make sense of text by using background knowledge, vocabulary, and critical thinking skills.

What it looks like:
- Building background knowledge
- Vocabulary
- Comprehension skills & strategies
- Syntax
- Embedded grammar instruction
- Writing*

Expectation:
- 2 units of ***Wonders/Maravillas*** per trimester grades 1st - 5th and 2-3 units for Kindergarten
- Use at least 2 ***Wonders/Maravillas*** texts to plan focused ELA/SLA instruction per week of Wonders

***Writing* includes writing basics, quick writes, sentences and paragraphs, writing process, summary writing, genre, and writing to sources.**

Small Group ELA/SLA Instruction

Literacy Block:
K-5: 40-60 minutes / 4 days a week
Minutes can be flexibly scheduled at the discretion of administration.

What is it?
A daily scheduled time for teachers to support students' needs, as identified by data, through reinforcement, intervention, or enrichment in skills-based learning, with differentiated practice and application of reading & writing skills.

What it looks like during independent time:
Differentiated, engaging independent activities that allow students to practice previously taught concepts in a variety of formats.

How often:
All students, including intervention students, work with the classroom teacher weekly, with frequency and duration tailored to their individual needs to ensure targeted support and academic growth.

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Portrait of a Graduate: Collaboration | Communication | Problem Solving | Work Ethic