

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 2026



Elizabeth Forward School District Curriculum Highlights K-12

Looking Ahead to an Exciting Year!

As we begin a new school year, we know many exciting changes lie ahead for the Elizabeth Forward School District. Planning for our upcoming school consolidation is well underway, and we are working thoughtfully to ensure a smooth transition for our students, families, and staff.

This newsletter is designed to keep families informed about the curriculum, assessments, and instructional changes taking place across the district. From new ELA and science resources to benchmark testing and the thoughtful integration of technology and AI, we remain focused on providing high-quality learning experiences that support the success of all students.

We are excited about this next chapter for our district and the opportunities it will create for our students. If you have questions about the curriculum, assessments, or instructional programs highlighted in this newsletter, please email me at mcperry@efsd.net. I am always happy to answer questions and provide additional information.

We look forward to partnering with our families to make this a wonderful and successful school year for every student!

Dr. Mary Carole Perry
Assistant Superintendent

Assessments

Throughout the school year, students participate in benchmark assessments to help teachers monitor academic progress, identify areas of need, and provide appropriate support and enrichment. Benchmark results are one of several measures teachers use to make instructional decisions and support student success. Below is a brief description of the benchmark assessment your child will take based on their grade level.

K-5 | aimswebPlus

Reading and Math benchmarks measure student skills and growth and help guide classroom instruction.

6-8 | Renaissance STAR

Reading and Math benchmarks measure student achievement and growth while also providing a projection of how students may perform on the PSSA assessments.

9-10 | LinkIt

Assessments in Algebra, Biology, and Literature monitor progress toward Pennsylvania Academic Standards and help prepare students for the Keystone Exams.

Artificial Intelligence - AI

The district has adopted MagicSchool AI as an approved resource for teachers to use in the classroom. MagicSchool provides teachers with AI-powered tools to support lesson planning, differentiation, student learning, and instructional practices. As we introduce AI into our schools, our focus remains on using these tools responsibly, appropriately, and purposefully to enhance teaching and learning. More information about MagicSchool AI and how it will be used to support teaching and learning will be shared with families in the coming weeks. Check out this [Parent Landing Page for MagicSchool](#).



K-5 English Language Arts Curriculum | CKLA

This school year, the district adopted Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA), 3rd Edition, as our new K-5 English Language Arts curriculum following last year's pilot. CKLA is aligned with Pennsylvania's requirements for Structured Literacy and the Science of Reading and provides explicit, systematic literacy instruction while building students' vocabulary, comprehension, writing skills, and background knowledge across a variety of topics.

In grades K-2, CKLA is complemented by the 95 Percent Group Tier 1 Phonics Program, which provides explicit and systematic phonics instruction to build strong foundational reading skills.

The district is also piloting Schoolwide Grammar and Writing in grades K-2 to provide explicit instruction and practice in grammar and writing. Teachers in grades 3-5 also have access to approved Schoolwide materials to support and enhance their grammar and writing instruction.

Together, CKLA, 95% Group, and Schoolwide provide a comprehensive approach to literacy instruction—building strong foundational reading skills while developing students' knowledge, comprehension, grammar, and writing abilities.

6-8 English Language Arts Curriculum | Amplify

Building upon the literacy foundation established through CKLA in grades K-5, students in grades 6-8 will continue their ELA learning with Amplify ELA. The program continues the focus on knowledge-building, close reading, vocabulary, writing, and evidence-based responses. This K-8 alignment provides consistency in literacy instruction and supports students as they transition to increasingly complex reading and writing expectations.



6-9 Grade Science | OpenSciEd

Pennsylvania has adopted the Science, Technology & Engineering, Environmental Literacy, and Sustainability (STEELS) Standards, which emphasize inquiry, problem-solving, and real-world science applications.

This year marks our second year implementing OpenSciEd in our secondary science classrooms.

Our teachers have continued to participate in professional development and are part of a growing network of educators across the region and country using OpenSciEd.

Through this inquiry-based approach, students engage in hands-on investigations, collaborate to solve problems, and apply their learning to real-world phenomena. We will continue to expand our use of OpenSciEd as we strengthen science instruction and prepare students for success with Pennsylvania's STEELS Standards and future STEM opportunities.



PLT

Personalized Learning Time (PLT)

The High School is currently developing and planning to incorporate Personalized Learning Time (PLT), with implementation planned for next school year. PLT will provide students with dedicated time during the school day for academic support, tutoring, enrichment, and other school activities. Students will have opportunities to meet with teachers for additional assistance, address areas of academic need, and participate in enrichment opportunities based on their interests.

Additional information about PLT and the High School schedule will be shared with students and families as plans are finalized.

PowerSchool Kinbox

The Elizabeth Forward School District chose a consistent, safe, district-wide messaging solution for grades K-12. The goal is to reduce communication methods and provide one central, secure messaging system. PowerSchool Kinbox is a messaging system that is fully integrated with our PowerSchool Student Information System. It pulls directly from the approved contact list to ensure messages go to the student's approved contacts. Teachers can message through this system to maintain regular communication with parents. PowerSchool Kinbox Messaging sends messages directly to your preferred method of communication. If a teacher sends a message, it comes directly to you as a text message or email. There is no dashboard, home page, or app. It is direct messaging to parents.