



# Elementary English Language Arts Pilot

September 14, 2022

# Guiding Questions

1 Why is CUSD 200 piloting new instructional materials for elementary English Language Arts?

2 What process has been used to select new instructional materials?

3 Which instructional materials will be piloted in classrooms this year?

4 What are the next steps after the pilot is complete?

# Background Information

---

- In 2010, the new Illinois Learning Standards were adopted by ISBE.
- Until recently, few high-quality instructional materials were available that are aligned to these standards.
- CUSD 200 elementary teachers and administrators expressed the need for ELA instructional materials.

## Academic Excellence Strategies

### Implement learning acceleration strategies and programming.

- ★ Adopt and support the implementation of resources in K-8 core academic areas (math, ELA, science and social studies) that ensure high-quality instruction for all learners.
- ★ Identify the roles digital tools and a 1:1 environment have in supporting learning acceleration.

### Design and implement a balanced assessment system.

- ★ Implement effective monitoring and assessment tools to measure progress for academics and social emotional needs of students.
- ★ Leverage data through an equity lens to improve learning for all students.
- ★ Identify the role technology plays in implementing a balanced assessment system.

### Develop implementation resources aligned with our Portrait of a Graduate.

- ★ Identify competencies, benchmarks, and instructional guidance for each descriptor - collaborator, communicator, problem-solver, resilient learner.
- ★ Identify digital tools that are aligned to support each descriptor.
- ★ Identify how an innovative 1:1 environment can create opportunities for students to increase their exposure to each descriptor.

### Expand programming to prepare students for a full range of post-secondary opportunities.

- ★ Expand dual credit opportunities and Transitional Math and English courses.
- ★ Elevate the number and diversity of students participating in early college coursework through a systematic recruiting process.
- ★ Develop an extensive Career Pathways Program including expanded opportunities, endorsements, a review of graduation requirements, and a review of middle school electives to align with Career Pathways.
- ★ Increase the number of blended learning offerings at both high schools.

### Develop a comprehensive professional learning program and support system for staff.

- ★ Create a vision for instructional coaching.
- ★ Review the coaching program and staffing at all levels.
- ★ Recognize and plan for professional learning within all academic excellence and social emotional learning strategies.
- ★ Develop a professional learning program to support new staff members.

### Support the social and emotional needs of students.

- ★ Ensure school connectedness for all students through clubs, activities, co-curricular programming, and relationship mapping strategies.
- ★ Implement social emotional learning (SEL) programming aligned with our SEL framework components of emotional wellness, behavior wellness, learning, relationships, and mindset.
- ★ Utilize assessment and screening data to differentiate support for students based upon need.



Our Vision 2026 strategic plan contains strategies and tactics that directly align with our Portrait of a Graduate.



**Mission**  
Inspire, educate, challenge and support all students to reach their highest level of learning and personal development.

**Vision**  
We are an exemplary, student-focused school district that is highly regarded for the competence and character of our students and the excellence of our people, programs and learning environment.

Our goal is to meet or exceed targeted measurable objectives on this strategic plan. The District's interactive dashboard can be found at [cusd200.org](http://cusd200.org).

## Operational Excellence Strategies

### Address facilities projects identified in the Facilities Master Plan.

- ★ Develop a plan for adding more innovative and flexible spaces for learning that align with the Portrait of a Graduate.
- ★ Develop a plan to address facility needs at 3 of the 4 middle schools.
- ★ Implement a capital facilities improvement plan consistent with the Sherman Dergis policy.
- ★ Implement an elementary playground replacement plan.
- ★ Develop and implement a Library Learning Center renovation plan at all levels.

### Maintain strong fiscal health of the organization.

- ★ Maintain a balanced budget on an annual basis.
- ★ Allocate financial and human resources to the strategic plan.
- ★ Monitor and report performance in key financial metric areas.
- ★ Ensure all District departments meet financial, operational, and academic strategies.

### Develop and maintain robust technology systems.

- ★ Annually assess the stability and security of District technology systems.
- ★ Regularly evaluate digital tools and subscriptions to ensure they are meeting the needs of the school system and are aligned with strategic work.
- ★ Ensure comprehensive data systems are accessible and usable for staff.

### Engage our community on an ongoing basis to determine its priorities, foster partnerships, and promote learning.

- ★ Continuously engage all stakeholders by communicating important updates.
- ★ Provide the community with a "window" into schools by utilizing the voices of our students.
- ★ Maintain active engagement with all of our municipalities and key community partners.
- ★ Conduct a communications audit to ensure that all District 200 stakeholders are being informed and engaged.

### Hire, develop and retain diverse, high-quality staff.

- ★ Actively recruit a diverse pool of candidates.
- ★ Maintain competitive wages.
- ★ Proactively address staff shortage and workforce needs.
- ★ Implement a "Grow your Own" teacher career pathway.
- ★ Actively support dual credit certification for secondary teachers.

### Maintain and enhance a positive organizational culture.

- ★ Regularly monitor the 5 Essentials Survey satisfaction feedback and plan accordingly.
- ★ Work collaboratively with first responders and community partners through the Safety Committee to update and enhance our school safety protocols.
- ★ Regularly conduct an employee morale and engagement survey to ensure a continuous improvement cycle.



Implement learning acceleration strategies and programming

\*Adopt and support the implementation of resources in K-8 core academic areas that ensure high-quality instruction for all learners

# Importance of High-Quality Instructional Materials

---

High-quality instructional materials supports learning acceleration in many ways:

- 1) Creates a strong coherence within a grade level and between grade levels
- 2) Allows specialists to better support students in co-teaching models
- 3) Frees teachers to spend their time differentiating and scaffolding learning rather than gathering and creating instructional materials on their own
- 4) Increases equitable access to grade-level learning
- 5) Provides strong assessment tools
- 6) Provides resources for interventions that are aligned to classroom instruction

# Guiding Questions

1 Why is CUSD 200 piloting new instructional materials for elementary English Language Arts?

2 What process has been used to select new instructional materials?

3 Which instructional materials will be piloted in classrooms this year?

4 What are the next steps after the pilot is complete?

# Selection Process

January - February 2022	Principals and coaches studied the ELA shifts that would be used to guide the selection process.
March - May 2022	The selection committee reviewed high-quality instructional materials aligned to the shifts and provided feedback.
June - August 2022	Administrators continued to review additional instructional materials. 32 staff members participated in a book study or ELA shifts training.
September 2022	The selection committee reviewed the three instructional materials. Two were selected to pilot by the selection committee.

# Guiding Questions

1 Why is CUSD 200 piloting new instructional materials for elementary English Language Arts?

2 What process has been used to select new instructional materials?

3 Which instructional materials will be piloted in classrooms this year?

4 What are the next steps after the pilot is complete?



# Materials

---

Bookworms and ARC Core are the two instructional materials being piloted.

Both are highly aligned to the instructional shifts for English Language Arts of:

- Foundational Skills
- Text Complexity
- Evidence-Based Reading and Writing
- Knowledge Building

# Pilot Team

## Teachers

Kindergarten: 1 teacher

First grade: 7 teachers

Second grade: 5 teachers

Third grade: 6 teachers

Fourth grade: 3 teachers

Fifth grade: 4 teachers

## Specialists

Specialists will serve in an advisory roles for the pilot team. This can include reviewing materials, co-teaching with classroom teachers, and working with administration.

- Multilingual Specialists (6)
- Resource Teachers (2)
- PACE Specialists (2)
- LLC Directors (2)
- Reading Coaches (13)

# Guiding Questions

1 Why is CUSD 200 piloting new instructional materials for elementary English Language Arts?

2 What process has been used to select new instructional materials?

3 Which instructional materials will be piloted in classrooms this year?

4 What are the next steps after the pilot is complete?

# Next Steps

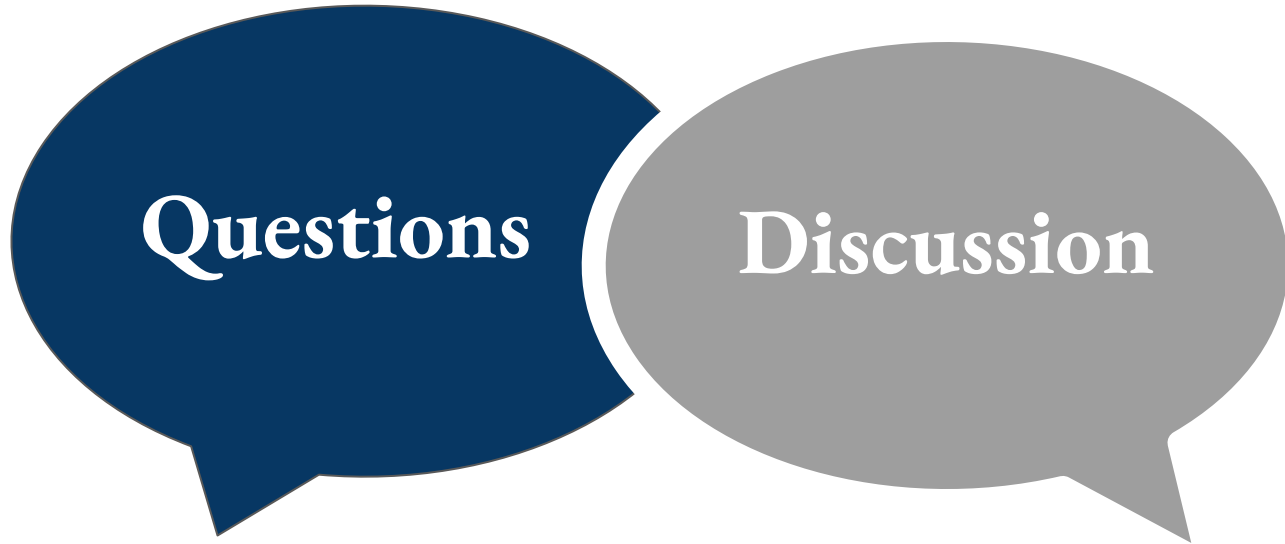
---

- The pilot will run from mid October - mid February.
- A recommendation will come to the Board of Education in March.
- Professional learning on the shifts will be provide to all K-5 ELA teachers.
- An implementation plan will be created with staff after the pilot is completed.

# Tonight's Recommendation

---

It is recommended the Board of Education approve the pilot and materials as presented.



**Questions**

**Discussion**