OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Community Schools, Thriving Students

Recommendations for Elementary Curriculum Adoptions (1st Read)

May 12, 2021

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Recommendation for Adoption: First Read

EL Education Core Modules	English Language Arts (ELA/ELD)	Gr. K-5
Benchmark *Adelante/Advance*	Dual Language: Spanish Language Arts (SLA)/English Language Arts	Gr. K-5
Newsela CA Custom Collection	History/Social Studies	Gr. 4-5

Literacy for Equity

College, Career and Community Success

We will ensure that our students develop the literacy skills they need to become **lifelong readers, writers, critical thinkers and empowered community members**.

The Need for High-Quality ELA/ELD Curriculum

We Need a Systemic Solution

"[I]t's my mission to ensure **all OUSD students receive a strong reading foundation, starting with our youngest students**.

The literacy gap is rooted in **racism**, **segregation**, and the **fundamental belief that some students simply cannot achieve**. It demands a systemic solution."

— OUSD Superintendent Kyla Johnson-Trammell, *Mercury News*

A strong curricula means students are:

- Thinking critically
- Engaging with culturally relevant materials
- Conducting inquiry through reading, writing and discussion
- Learning the language of complex texts (ELLs & All Students)

Foundational Literacy

Content Units Anchored in Complex Text Sets

Standards-Based Tasks

Assessment & Differentiated Instruction

English Language Development

Equity Practices

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Our Current K-5 ELA Curriculum Lacks in Key Areas

Foundational Literacy

- **Insufficient materials** for phonemic awareness, phonics and fluency

Complex Text

- **Lack of grade-level texts** — reading, writing and discussion

Equity and Access

- **Insufficient support for English Learners** and Academic Language Learners
- **Lack of culturally relevant materials**
- **No Spanish Language Arts materials** for Dual Language Programs.

Building on SIPPS Implementation

- Supplemental Materials for **Foundational Literacy**
- **Supports**: Professional Development, Lead Teacher Coaching, Tutors
- Monitoring Implementation
- Continuing support for Tier 1 (K-2) and Tier 2 (3-5)

Systematic Instruction in Phonics, Phonemic Awareness and Sight Words (SIPPS)

ELA/ELD Curriculum Selection Process

ELA Elementary Curriculum Steering Committee

- **24 teachers** (15 classroom and 6 SPED teachers, 2 TSAs, OEA Vice President)**, 1 principal; 4 OUSD Coordinators --** **1200+ hours**

- Subcommittees focused on **Foundational Literacy and Dyslexia**, **Complex Text and Tasks**, and **ELLs and Cultural Responsiveness**

- **Engagement** with Parent Study Group, OEA, Principals, Teachers, Community Partner Meetings (# of meetings)

- The committee reviewed 9 programs and studied two pilots; voted 19-0 to recommend EL Education (April 2021)

Committee Ratings

Pilot Findings Report

Note: 1 = little or none, 2 = some, 3 = strong, 4 = exemplary	Content Area Indicators	Cross Cutting Look Fors	Averages	Averages by Area
EL EDUCATION				**Foundational Skills ONLY**
Foundational Skills and Dyslexia	2.54	2.57	2.56	2.56 *Note that the committee would have rated this lower had they met again after the presentation from EL Ed.*
Complex Text and Task	3.49	2.93	3.21	**Complex Text & Task + ELLs & Cultural Responsiveness ONLY**
ELLs and Culturally Responsiveness	2.89	3.04	2.97	3.09
	Total Average for EL Ed		2.91	
BENCHMARK ADVANCE				**Foundational Skills ONLY**
Foundational Skills and Dyslexia	2.53	2.56	2.55	2.55
Complex Text and Task	2.96	3.17	3.07	**Complex Text & Task + ELLs & Cultural Responsiveness ONLY**
ELLs and Culturally Responsiveness	2.84	3.01	2.93	3.00
	Total Average for Benchmark		2.85	
WONDERS				**Foundational Skills ONLY**
Foundational Skills and Dyslexia	2.76	2.95	2.85	2.85
Complex Text and Task	2.58	2.54	2.56	**Complex Text & Task + ELLs & Cultural Responsiveness ONLY**
ELLs and Culturally Responsiveness	2.21	2.53	2.37	2.46
	Total Average for Wonders		2.59	
AMPLIFY CKLA				**Foundational Skills ONLY**
Foundational Skills and Dyslexia	2.78	2.94	2.86	2.86
Complex Text and Task	2.18	2.45	2.32	**Complex Text & Task + ELLs & Cultural Responsiveness ONLY**
ELLs and Culturally Responsiveness	1.97	2.35	2.16	2.238
	Total Average for CKLA		2.45	
Bookworms				**Foundational Skills ONLY**
Foundational Skills and Dyslexia	2.32	2.33	2.33	2.33
Complex Text and Task	2.31	2.05	2.18	**Complex Text & Task + ELLs & Cultural Responsiveness ONLY**
ELLs and Culturally Responsiveness	2.24	2.37	2.31	2.243
	Total Average for Bookworms		2.27	
F&P CLASSROOM				**Foundational Skills ONLY**
Foundational Skills and Dyslexia	2.06	2.18	2.12	2.12
Complex Text and Task	2.36	2.30	2.33	**Complex Text & Task + ELLs & Cultural Responsiveness ONLY**
ELLs and Culturally Responsiveness	2.07	2.42	2.24	2.12
	Total Average for F&P Classroom		2.23	

The Committee reviewed nine programs

Curricula Considered

Step	Level 1 Review	Level 2 Review	Pilot & Collect Data
Description	**Nine programs below were considered by the Committee.**	**Of those, six programs were selected for in-depth review using a comprehensive rubric.**	**Of those, two programs were identified for collecting data and are currently being piloted in schools.**
Curricula/ Programs	• Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts • Benchmark Advance • Bookworms • Collaborative Literacy (Being a Reader, Being a Writer, Making Meaning) • EL Education • F&P Classroom • National Geographic Reach for Reading • Wit and Wisdom • Wonders - McGraw Hill	• Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts • Benchmark Advance • Bookworms • EL Education • F&P Classroom • Wonders - McGraw Hill	• Benchmark Advance • EL Education

Piloting EL Education

For the last two school years, **19 elementary schools** in OUSD, including **nearly 300 teachers** and **6,300 students**, have piloted a *EL Education,* as part of an effort to create the "Oakland Way" on literacy.

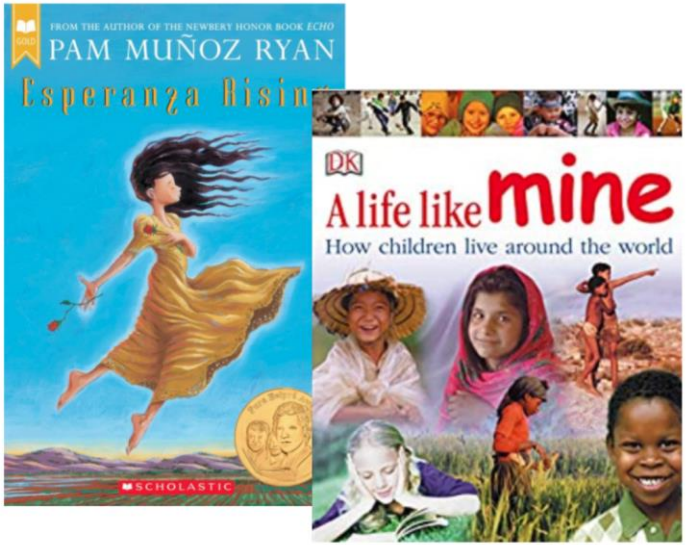
EL Education		
• Allendale Elementary	• EnCompass Academy	• Melrose Leadership
• Bella Vista Elementary	• Garfield Elementary	• New Highland Academy
• Brookfield Village Elementary	• Grass Valley	• Parker Elementary
• Burckhalter Elementary	• Hoover Elementary	• Reach Academy
• Carl Munck Elementary	• Horace Mann Elementary	• RISE Community School
• Emerson	• Howard Elementary	
• Futures	• Madison Park Academy	

On the Smarter Balanced interim assessments for grades 3-5, schools that piloted, saw a **29.4 point increase in English Language arts scores, compared to an 11.9 point increase among schools not piloting *EL Education*** from Winter 2019 to Winter 2020, after only four months of implementation.

Recommendation for EL Education

Staff Recommendation: EL Education

- Exemplary and engaging inquiry units **rooted in complex text; Strong equity lens and SEL**
- **Rich, authentic writing grounded in reading**
- **Integrated English Language Development, student talk**, academic discussion protocols
- Highest rating from EdReports: **alignment** & **usability**; *UnboundEd* Standards-Institute Curriculum
- **Alignment and deepening implementation**: 19 Elementary Schools + Current MS Adoption



EL Education: Teachers

"For historically underserved students [EL Ed] gives them not just exposure, but time to do the thinking and talking. It provides space for them to be and learn at the same time."
— Precious James Gr. 4/5, MPA

"**Students need to talk, read, write, and synthesize ideas. With EL, students get those opportunities. They become experts. They have the opportunity to learn**."
— Ayana Dupree, Instructional Coach, Parker

"I had a Balanced Literacy background and was skeptical of EL because I was used to what I was used to. It was a learning curve to learn this curriculum, but I never want to go back."
— Liz Noone, Gr. 4, RISE

"I like what's happening in class! The rigor is there and kids like the project-based learning. K's are keeping up with 1st graders because it's scaffolded nicely."
— Faustena Byrd-Linarez, Gr. K/1 Carl Munck

EL Education: Principals

"With EL, students were asked to read, use texts, and collaborate with their classmates. Rigor increased. The rigor and quality are there with EL."
—Samantha Keller, Principal, RISE

"Before, we lowered the bar so much for kids. We believed that kids couldn't excel and couldn't do the deep thinking. Now I see kids owning their learning and talking passionately about texts. The anti-racist practice is not lowering the bar for kids."

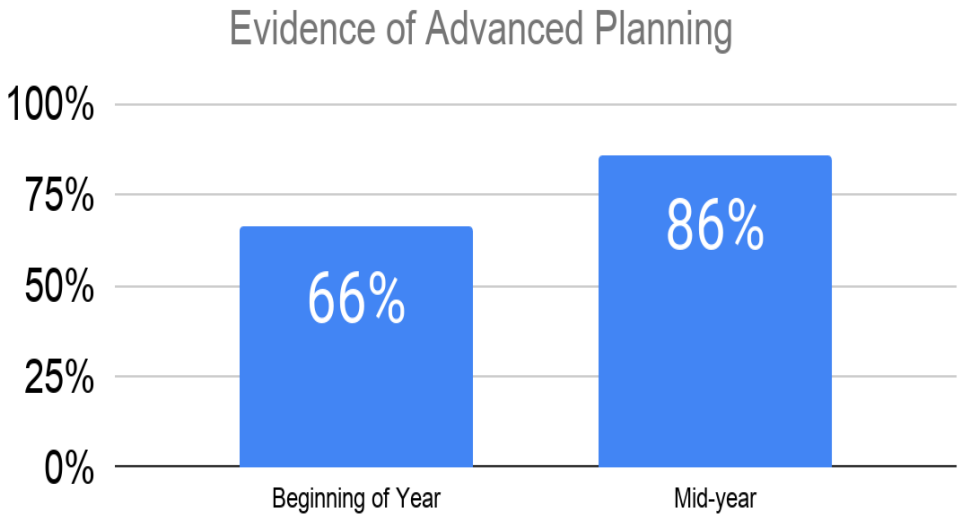
— Sabrina Moore, Principal, MPA Primary

"The focus of this curriculum provides an entry and on-ramp for all students."

— Linda Flynn, Principal, Bella Vista Elementary School

With Support, Teachers Improve over Time

- District Learning Walks at each school: BOY vs. MY
- Teachers better prepared at midyear (86% vs. 66%)
- Teachers using curriculum for 2 years scored higher in all observation indicators



Recommendation for Benchmark

Adelante/Advance for Dual Language

Staff Recommendation: Benchmark
Adelante/Advance for Dual Language

- **Biliteracy**: Rich, authentic texts in Spanish; robust cross-language connections; Embedded assessments in both languages
- Advance (ELA) rated second highest by committee: strong **complex text** and **knowledge building**
- **Language Development**: Designated ELD, multiple scaffolds for ELLs in English & Spanish
- History and Science; Collaboration with Benchmark to improve cultural responsiveness

Benchmark: Teachers and Principals

"Love the rigor and complexity of the texts, and the ELD aligned to complex texts"

— Teacher at ***Bridges***

"Adelante provides authentic literature originally written in Spanish and students can build on what they learn on the English side."

-Dante Ruiz, Former principal at ***Global Family***

"Scaffolding and spiraling of the content. A lot of support for new teachers."

— Teacher at ***EOP***

"Small group intervention resources especially phonics in distance learning/online. Lessons are aligned with the standards."

— Teacher at ***MLA***

History Selection Process and Recommendation for Newsela (Gr. 4-5)

Elementary History

Need for New Curriculum	Selection Process
H*arcourt Reflections* (2006-07): ● Not aligned to California History Framework (2016) ● Lack of culturally responsive materials ● Lacks relevant connections to the present or learning through inquiry	● **Committee:** 15 Teachers and Staff ● **Engagement:** 2018 Committee; SEL, Office of Equity, Ethnic Studies, Literacy, ELLMA, and OUSD families ● Evaluation of programs and **1 pilot** ● **Focus on 4-5**; revisit K-3 in 2021-22

Staff Recommendation: Newsela CA Custom Collection

Grades 4-5 History/Social Studies

- Inquiry-based units aligned to CA framework
- Customized with OUSD Teacher Leaders
- Digital curriculum stays current
- Culturally-Responsive: centers perspectives of Black, Brown, and other marginalized students
- Additional Collections: Black History, Ethnic Studies, etc.

Coherent Instructional System

Foundational Teacher PD

Curriculum-Based Professional Learning

On-Site Coaching and Support

Quality, Standards-Based Curriculum

Standards-Based Assessment

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Professional Learning for ELA/ELD Adoptions

- **Foundational PD:** *3 Days*
- **Monthly PD**
- **Weekly Teacher Collaboration**
- **Literacy PLC Leaders**
  (Teachers/TSAs)
- **Leadership PD & Learning Walks**

Questions and Feedback

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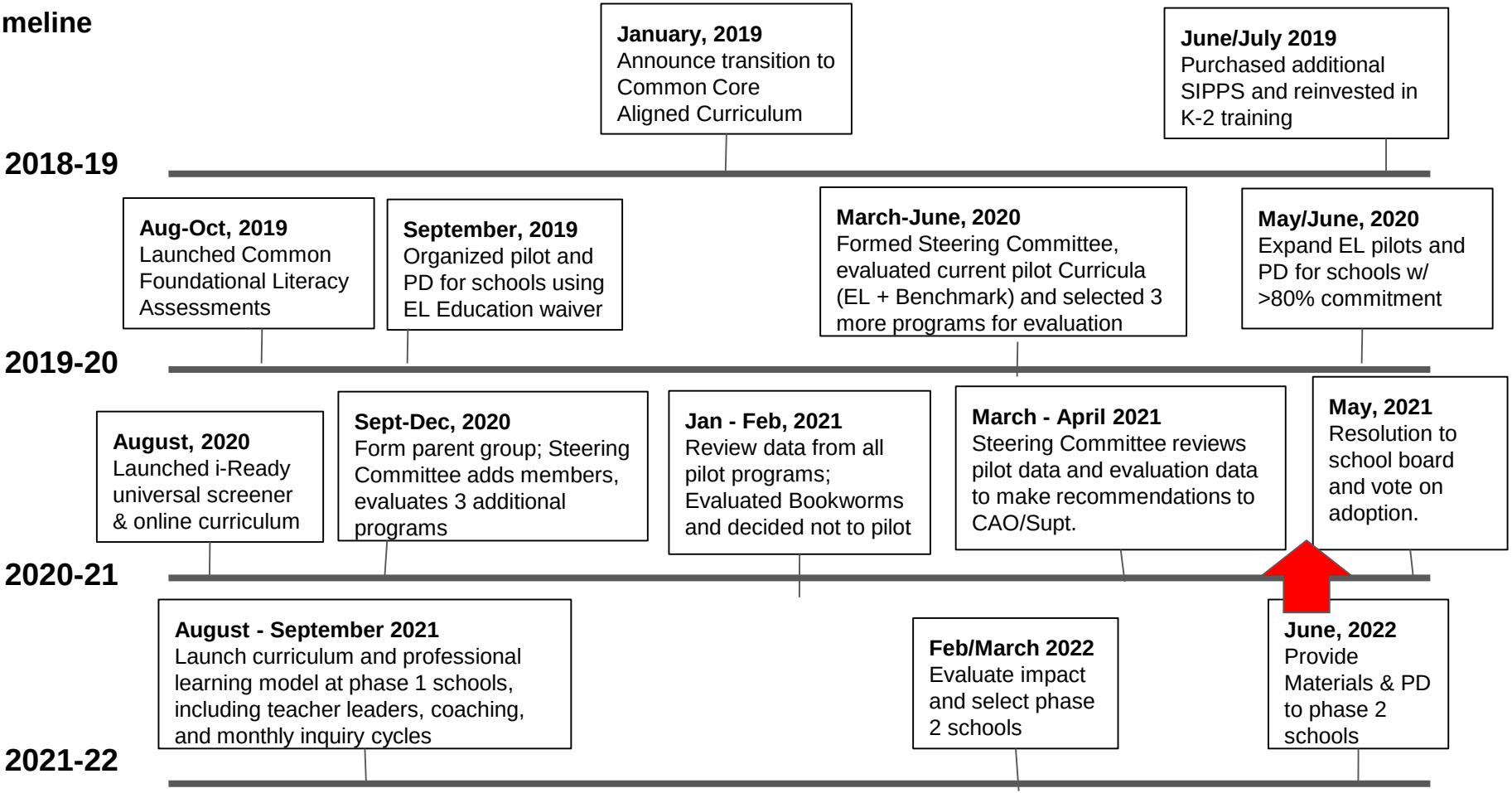
Appendices

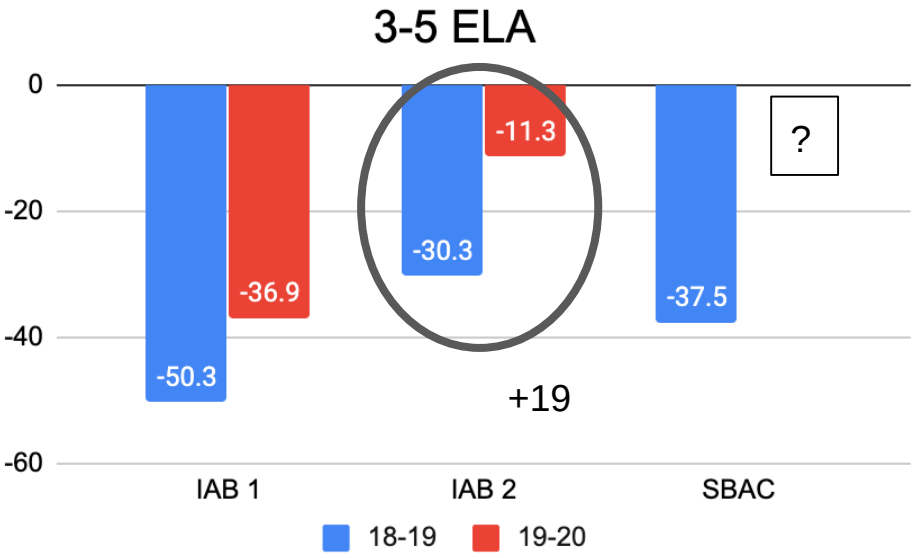
OUSD State of Curriculum (2020-21)

	Elementary	Middle School	High School
English Language Arts + English Language Dev't	Units of Study Classroom Libraries (Pilots + SIPPS*)	EL Education	
Mathematics	Math Expressions**	IM	**IM** (Alg. I, II, Geo) Freeman (Statistics)
Science	FOSS Next Generation	FOSS Next Generation	(Biology Field Tests)
Social Studies / History	(NewsELA Pilot 4-5)	Pearson MyWorld Interactive	

*Supplemental: Systematic Instruction in Phonics, Phonemic Awareness, and Sight Words (SIPPS); SPIRE (SPED)
**Supplemental: ST Math; Selection Process to restart in 2021-22

ELA Curriculum and Assessment Timeline





Interim Assessment Growth

Reading Informational Text IAB

Distance From Standard
0 = Grade Level

Curriculum	# of Schools	Winter 2019	Winter 2020	DFS Change
Adelante/Advance	8	-59.9	-30.7	**29.2**
EL Education	6	-69.9	-40.5	**29.4**
Core Curriculum: UoS	33	-14.6	-2.7	11.9