



OAKLAND UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Community Schools, Thriving Students*



# Recommendations for Elementary Curriculum Adoptions

**May 26, 2021**

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# Recommendation for Adoption

<b><i>EL Education</i></b> Core Modules	English Language Arts (ELA/ELD)	Gr. K-5
<b><i>Benchmark</i></b> <i>Adelante/Advance</i>	Dual Language: Spanish Language Arts (SLA)/English Language Arts	Gr. K-5
<b><i>Newsela</i></b> 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 (20+)
- 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
<b>EL EDUCATION</b>				<b>Foundational Skills ONLY</b>
Foundational Skills and Dyslexia	2.54	2.57	2.56	2.56 <small>Note that the committee would have rated this lower had they met again after the presentation from EL Ed.</small>
Complex Text and Task	3.49	2.93	3.21	<b>Complex Text &amp; Task + ELLs &amp; Cultural Responsiveness ONLY</b>
ELLs and Culturally Responsiveness	2.89	3.04	2.97	3.09
Total Average for EL Ed			2.91	
<b>BENCHMARK ADVANCE</b>				<b>Foundational Skills ONLY</b>
Foundational Skills and Dyslexia	2.53	2.56	2.55	2.55
Complex Text and Task	2.96	3.17	3.07	<b>Complex Text &amp; Task + ELLs &amp; Cultural Responsiveness ONLY</b>
ELLs and Culturally Responsiveness	2.84	3.01	2.93	3.00
Total Average for Benchmark			2.85	
<b>WONDERS</b>				<b>Foundational Skills ONLY</b>
Foundational Skills and Dyslexia	2.76	2.95	2.85	2.85
Complex Text and Task	2.58	2.54	2.56	<b>Complex Text &amp; Task + ELLs &amp; Cultural Responsiveness ONLY</b>
ELLs and Culturally Responsiveness	2.21	2.53	2.37	2.46
Total Average for Wonders			2.59	
<b>AMPLIFY CKLA</b>				<b>Foundational Skills ONLY</b>
Foundational Skills and Dyslexia	2.78	2.94	2.86	2.86
Complex Text and Task	2.18	2.45	2.32	<b>Complex Text &amp; Task + ELLs &amp; Cultural Responsiveness ONLY</b>
ELLs and Culturally Responsiveness	1.97	2.35	2.16	2.238
Total Average for CKLA			2.45	
<b>Bookworms</b>				<b>Foundational Skills ONLY</b>
Foundational Skills and Dyslexia	2.32	2.33	2.33	2.33
Complex Text and Task	2.31	2.05	2.18	<b>Complex Text &amp; Task + ELLs &amp; Cultural Responsiveness ONLY</b>
ELLs and Culturally Responsiveness	2.24	2.37	2.31	2.243
Total Average for Bookworms			2.27	
<b>F&amp;P CLASSROOM</b>				<b>Foundational Skills ONLY</b>
Foundational Skills and Dyslexia	2.06	2.18	2.12	2.12
Complex Text and Task	2.36	2.30	2.33	<b>Complex Text &amp; Task + ELLs &amp; Cultural Responsiveness ONLY</b>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts</li><li>• Benchmark Advance</li><li>• Bookworms</li><li>• Collaborative Literacy (Being a Reader, Being a Writer, Making Meaning)</li><li>• EL Education</li><li>• F&amp;P Classroom</li><li>• National Geographic Reach for Reading</li><li>• Wit and Wisdom</li><li>• Wonders - McGraw Hill</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts</li><li>• Benchmark Advance</li><li>• Bookworms</li><li>• EL Education</li><li>• F&amp;P Classroom</li><li>• Wonders - McGraw Hill</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Benchmark Advance</li><li>• EL Education</li></ul>

# 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.

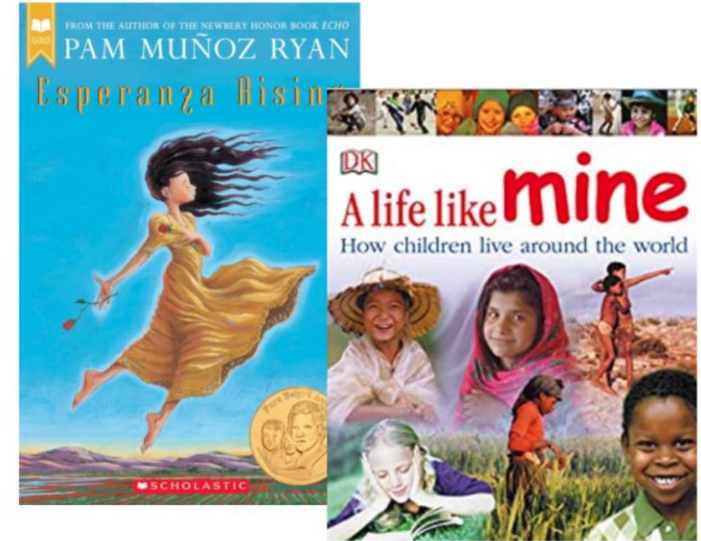
EL Education		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Allendale Elementary</li><li>• Bella Vista Elementary</li><li>• Brookfield Village Elementary</li><li>• Burckhalter Elementary</li><li>• Carl Munck Elementary</li><li>• Emerson</li><li>• Futures</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• EnCompass Academy</li><li>• Garfield Elementary</li><li>• Grass Valley</li><li>• Hoover Elementary</li><li>• Horace Mann Elementary</li><li>• Howard Elementary</li><li>• Madison Park Academy</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Melrose Leadership</li><li>• New Highland Academy</li><li>• Parker Elementary</li><li>• Reach Academy</li><li>• RISE Community School</li></ul>

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.”*

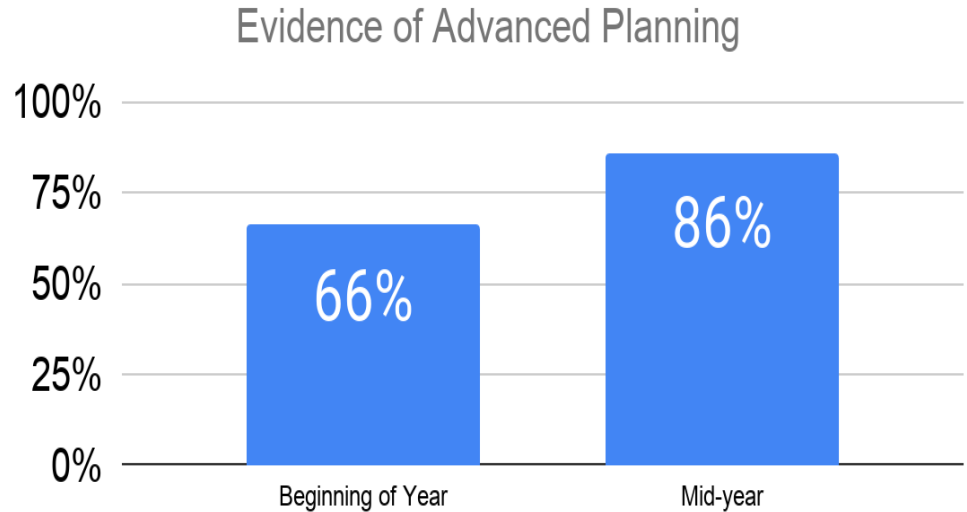
— Sabrina Moore, Principal, MPA Primary

“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 (2020-21)
<p><i>Harcourt Reflections</i> (2006-07):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Not aligned to California History Framework (2016)</li><li>● Lack of culturally responsive materials</li><li>● Lacks relevant connections to the present or learning through inquiry</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Committee:</b> 15 Teachers and Staff</li><li>● <b>Engagement:</b> 2018 Committee; SEL, Office of Equity, Ethnic Studies, Literacy, ELLMA, and OUSD families</li><li>● Evaluation of programs and <b>1 pilot</b></li><li>● <b>Focus on 4-5;</b> revisit K-3 in 2021-22</li></ul>



# 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.

### What we don't learn about the Black Panther Party — but should

Present Save Read Aloud Share Hide Print Add To Text Set



Image 1. A teacher leads his students with the black power salute and slogans at a Black Panther liberation school on December 20, 1969. Photo from Getty Images.

# Coherent Instructional System



# Professional Learning for ELA/ELD Adoptions

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



# Recommended for Adoption

<b><i>EL Education</i></b> Core Modules	English Language Arts (ELA/ELD)	Gr. K-5
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<b><i>Newsela</i></b> CA Custom Collection	History/Social Studies	Gr. 4-5

# Appendices

# OUSD State of Curriculum (2020-21)

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

2018-19

**January, 2019**  
Announce transition to  
Common Core  
Aligned Curriculum

**June/July 2019**  
Purchased additional  
SIPPS and reinvested in  
K-2 training

**Aug-Oct, 2019**  
Launched Common  
Foundational Literacy  
Assessments

**September, 2019**  
Organized pilot and  
PD for schools using  
EL Education waiver

**March-June, 2020**  
Formed Steering Committee,  
evaluated current pilot Curricula  
(EL + Benchmark) and selected 3  
more programs for evaluation

**May/June, 2020**  
Expand EL pilots and  
PD for schools w/  
>80% commitment

2019-20

**August, 2020**  
Launched i-Ready  
universal screener  
& online curriculum

**Sept-Dec, 2020**  
Form parent group; Steering  
Committee adds members,  
evaluates 3 additional  
programs

**Jan - Feb, 2021**  
Review data from all  
pilot programs;  
Evaluated Bookworms  
and decided not to pilot

**March - April 2021**  
Steering Committee reviews  
pilot data and evaluation data  
to make recommendations to  
CAO/Supt.

**May, 2021**  
Resolution to  
school board  
and vote on  
adoption.

2020-21

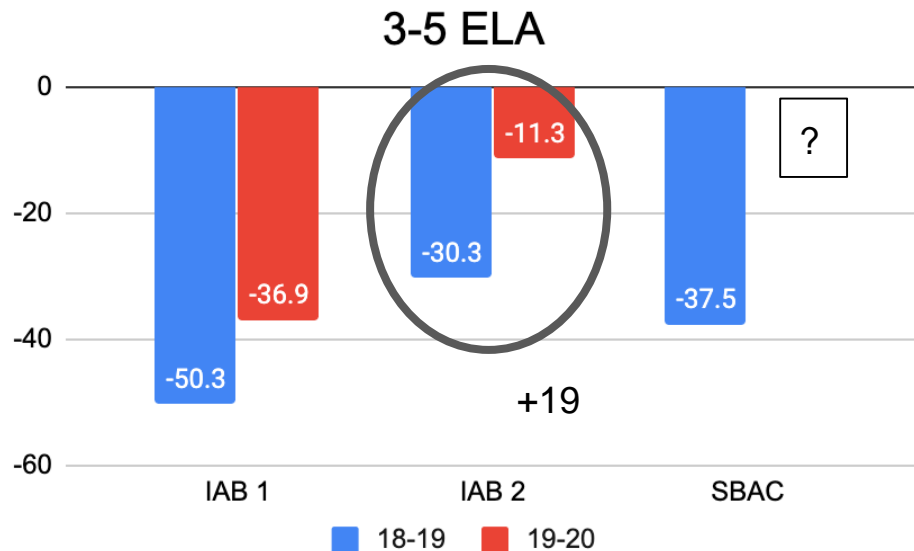
**August - September 2021**  
Launch curriculum and professional  
learning model at phase 1 schools,  
including teacher leaders, coaching,  
and monthly inquiry cycles

**Feb/March 2022**  
Prepare Phase 2  
schools for  
implementation

**June, 2022**  
Provide  
Materials & PD  
to phase 2  
schools

2021-22





## Interim Assessment Growth

### *Reading Informational Text IAB*

Distance From Standard  
0 = Grade Level

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