



# West Orange Public Schools

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Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

Ms. Eveny de Mendez

## ELA Update: Family Letter

February 16, 2024

Dear West Orange Families,

In February 2023, the district established an English Language Arts Committee (ELA) with the primary goal of evaluating the current ELA program for grades K-5, its curriculum, and instructional resources. The aim is to select a comprehensive, evidence-based ELA program rooted in scientific research literature and effective instructional strategies for implementation in the 2024-2025 school year. This selection process is focused on ensuring alignment with the newly adopted New Jersey Student Learning Standards in ELA, while also incorporating the latest research on reading and addressing all aspects of literacy instruction.

We are delighted to share an update on the progress of our ELA program review process.

### ELA Pilot Programs: Into Reading and myView

The ELA Committee has rigorously assessed a variety of core comprehensive instructional programs that align with the district's priorities. After careful consideration and gathering feedback from educators, we have identified our top two choices for ELA materials: Into Reading by HMH and MyView by Savvas. These programs are well-suited to our objectives and offer robust support for our diverse student population.

From February 12th to March 8th, we will be piloting each of these programs in K-5 classrooms district-wide. One pilot classroom for each program has been designated in every school. Teachers involved in the pilot will seamlessly integrate the content into their current units of study to conduct a thorough review of the instructional materials. Additionally, classroom visits will be arranged, allowing teachers of the same grade level to observe the instruction and provide feedback.

By March 11th, the ELA Committee aims to reach a final decision on the recommendation to be presented to the Board on March 18th for implementation in the 2024-2025 academic year.

### ELA Update for Families

On March 12th, 13th, and 14th, ELA Updates for Families will be held at elementary schools throughout the district. These sessions are designed to offer detailed information about the ELA program selection, provide an opportunity to preview instructional materials and digital resources for home-school connection, address any questions you may have, and solicit feedback on how the district can best support families during this transition.

- |                             |                      |                                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| • Tuesday, March 12, 2024   | 6pm Gregory          | 7:30pm @Mt. Pleasant / St. Cloud           |
| • Wednesday, March 13, 2024 | 6pm @Redwood / Kelly | 7:30pm <a href="#">Virtual (Zoom link)</a> |
| • Thursday, March 14, 2024  | 6pm Hazel            | 7:30pm Washington                          |

We sincerely appreciate your ongoing support as we endeavor to enhance the literacy education of our students. We remain dedicated to keeping you informed throughout this important process.

Warm Regards,

Eveny de Mendez

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

Beatrice Hanratty

English Language Arts Supervisor, K-5