



CENTENNIAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT 12

CONNECTING. ACHIEVING. PREPARING.

“READ WELL BY THIRD GRADE”
District Literacy Plan
June 2016

CENTENNIAL SCHOOLS: ISD12

DISTRICT LITERACY PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Our mission for Centennial School District 12 is to prepare students for life through academic, emotional, and social development. The Centennial Public Schools District Literacy Plan describes current efforts to support this mission and to reach the goal that each student in the Centennial Public Schools will read at or above grade level by Third Grade. This meets the requirements of Minnesota Statute 120B.12 enacted because research consistently supports the foundational importance of early reading success. This plan is ongoing and will be updated yearly.

INTRODUCTION

The Centennial Public Schools community is committed to ensuring that each student reach or exceed grade level standards and benchmarks. These benchmarks are crucial in reading; research strongly points to the fact that students who are not reading at or above grade level by Third Grade have difficulty catching up later in school. As part of this literacy milestone, the Minnesota State Legislature adopted statutes to frame the work that ensures that all students Read Well by Third Grade.

Minnesota Statute 120B.12 requires that, beginning with the 2011-12 school year, all school districts:

- assess students' level of reading proficiency and identify students not yet reading at grade level.
- notify and involve parents/guardians of students who are not yet reading at grade level.
- intervene and accelerate learning growth for students who are not yet reading at grade level.
- ensure that elementary teachers have appropriate training and support to provide comprehensive, scientifically-based and culturally sensitive instruction.
- adopt and post a "Local Literacy Plan" to ensure that all students are reading at or above grade level by the end of third grade by July 1 of each year.

The goal for all students to Read Well by Third Grade requires sustained engagement and commitment from our community of stakeholders. The Centennial Public Schools curriculum is designed to provide a solid base for instructional planning. School board members can make policy decisions and provide resources to support and maintain an excellent program that meets our students' needs. Administrators and the Systems Accountability Committee can provide resources and equipment needed to support and maintain an excellent program that meets our students' needs. Teachers use research-based instructional strategies and engage in professional development on scientifically-based reading instruction. Parents/guardians can talk to and read with their children at home, thereby building strong foundational literacy skills. Students can engage in literacy play and study. With ongoing support and engagement from all of our stakeholders in the literacy needs of our children, we believe that we can prepare each student to achieve success.

STATEMENT OF LITERACY GOALS

Centennial Public Schools is devoted to ensuring that all students are grade-level proficient in reading. We realize that all students are unique and that each arrives with certain literacy capacities. For example, some Kindergarteners know letter names, some read fluently, and some are beginning to develop print awareness.

Our mission is to prepare students for life through academic, emotional, and social development. We believe literacy is the cornerstone of this mission. Therefore, the ability to read and use language has a direct impact on student learning, the ability to demonstrate standards' proficiency, and the quality of our students' lives.

We believe that the core curriculum and the tiered interventions we have in place provide an excellent way for our students to achieve the goal of grade-level proficiency. Our ongoing commitment to excellence in teaching and learning to ensure reading proficiency for all students in grades K-3 is grounded in:

- Ongoing assessment of each student
- 2010 Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards in English Language Arts
- District/School Improvement Planning
- Classroom curriculum and materials (research-based, implemented and revised through a curriculum review process)
- Research-based teaching and learning practices
- Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)

ASSESSING LITERACY PROFICIENCY

Assessments

Centennial uses multiple data points to make instructional determinations and to assess students' reading proficiency. These include standardized tools and classroom-based assessments that are administered in both whole-class and individual settings throughout the year by the students' classroom teacher(s) and other trained professionals. These provide teachers, parents/guardians and students with specific information beginning the first month of Kindergarten and continuing over the course of each year. Teachers also informally assess and work with students to build confidence and a love for reading.

Students in grades K-3 in the Centennial School District are assessed three times each year – September, January and May. In Kindergarten, assessments include letter names, letter sounds, and nonsense words. First Grade students are assessed with letter sounds, nonsense words, and oral fluency. Students in Second and Third Grade are assessed with oral fluency and Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). These assessments also assist teachers (and the data meeting teams) in their determination of an appropriate intervention plan. The table below outlines the assessment schedule and the areas addressed by each in grades K-3.

Grade	Assessment	Areas Addressed	Timeline
K	AIMSWEB	Letter Names, Letter Sounds, Nonsense Words	Fall, Winter, Spring (letter sounds & nonsense words)
K	District Kindergarten Common Assessment	Letter Names, Letter Sounds, Sight Words	Fall, Winter
1	AIMSWEB	Nonsense Words, Fluency (rate, accuracy, expression)	Fall (nonsense words), Winter, Spring
1	District Literacy Assessment	Segmenting and Blending, Sight Words, CVC Words	Fall
1-3	<i>Treasures</i> curriculum (weekly; end of unit)	Comprehension, grammar, spelling, vocabulary	All Year
2	AIMSWEB	Fluency (rate, accuracy, expression)	Fall, Winter, Spring
2	CogAT	Developed cognitive abilities (verbal, quantitative, nonverbal)	Winter
2	NWEA MAP	Reading Comprehension, Foundational Skills	Fall (all students) Winter & Spring (quartile 1 & 2 students)
3	AIMSWEB	Fluency (rate, accuracy, expression)	Fall, Winter, Spring
3	MCA-III	Reading Comprehension	Spring
3	NWEA MAP	Reading Comprehension	Fall

Defining Proficiency

Our definition of “proficiency” is based on Minnesota Language Arts Standards’ benchmarks at each grade level and national norms. We also use multiple data points (AIMSWEB, MAP, MCA, classroom assessment, teacher observation, etc.) to further define proficiency. The table below provides specific benchmark targets that contribute to our definition of “proficient” in reading in grades K-3:

GRADE	ASSESSMENT	PROFICIENCY
K	AIMSWEB	Letter Name Fluency (LNF): Winter \geq 37 Letter Sound Fluency (LSF): Spring \geq 41 Nonsense Word Fluency (NWF): Spring \geq 34
1	AIMSWEB	Nonsense Word Fluency (NWF): Winter \geq 50 Oral Reading Fluency (RCBM): Spring \geq 52
2	AIMSWEB	Oral Reading Fluency (RCBM): Spring \geq 90
3	AIMSWEB MCA Reading	Oral Reading Fluency (RCBM): Spring \geq 119 MN Comprehensive Assessments (MCA): Spring = Meets or Exceeds

Intervention

Teachers use progress monitoring data, classroom assessments, professional observation, and diagnostic assessments to ascertain student growth, benchmark students’ achievement in grade level standards and plan instruction to target student learning goals. Staff regularly review student data to help inform the literacy instruction that is most appropriate for all students. Intervention services are considered for students who score in the lowest two quartiles (50 percentile and below). When students are not meeting benchmarks or making

Results from assessments outlined above are frequently disaggregated and analyzed at the district, site, program and classroom levels, and are monitored for grade-level performance. This analysis occurs in school and program improvement/curriculum planning. The results guide instructional decision-making. As well, this analysis identifies students in need of additional instruction and time to reach grade level proficiency in reading as well as those who require extensions. Students enter and exit interventions throughout the school year to ensure that students are working toward proficiency whenever data indicates they need additional instruction and time to achieve grade level benchmarks.

PARENT/GUARDIAN NOTIFICATION AND INVOLVEMENT

A strong partnership with parents/guardians is crucial. Parents are informed of student progress with regular progress reports and teacher communications at least three times per year. Parents/guardians are informed primarily by the classroom teacher, who also communicates with the intervention teachers. Parents/guardians are informed of the assessment data in a timely manner via fall and winter parent/teacher conferences, report cards and electronic communication. Each elementary school also offers monthly newsletters, online resources posted on the district website, parent advisory groups, parent literacy workshops, and parent-teacher conferences where a variety of supportive literacy resources are available.

Teachers provide progress updates regarding reading abilities to parents/guardians at conferences in the fall and spring, which most parents/guardians attend. If a parent/guardian is unable to attend conferences, every effort is made for timely communication in person, by phone, or electronic means. Interpreters are provided for parents/guardians who request them.

When students are identified as in need of additional instruction and time to reach grade level proficiency in reading, parents/guardians are notified by the classroom teacher and engaged in discussion of the student's performance as well as the intervention plan that is designed to support the student to reach grade level achievement.

The District Literacy Plan information is available to parents on the [Centennial Public Schools website](#). The district and the elementary school websites ([Blue Heron](#), [Centennial](#), [Centerville](#), [Golden Lake](#), [Rice Lake](#)) offer additional resources and tools for parents/guardians, caregivers and/or community members to support literacy at home. Some websites staff and parents may choose to access in regards to literacy development include:

- [Parent and Family Engagement at Ed.Gov](#)
- [Reading Rockets](#) – Resources for teaching kids to read and helping those who struggle
- [Read Write Think](#) – Resources for developing literacy inside and outside of school
- [PBS Kids](#) – Reading Games and Activities
- [Help Me Grow](#): Parent Resources on Reading, Literacy Development, and More

INSTRUCTION, INTERVENTIONS AND INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORTS

Centennial uses the MacMillan/McGraw *Treasures* core curriculum, which provides a solid base for all students. The core curriculum provides materials for students who are approaching grade level, are on grade level and those beyond grade level. There are also specialized instructional materials for English Language Learners as well as an intervention program (*Triumphs*). This curriculum has been aligned to the Common Core standards and incorporates scientifically based reading instruction. Teachers receive training on how to consistently implement this program. All students benefit from whole group and small group instruction and other interventions as deemed necessary. Grade levels spend a minimum of two hours daily on reading instruction employing whole group, small group and individual instruction as needed.

Centennial's framework for literacy development provides a tiered model of instruction and supports for all students. Core elements include: clear identification of students' needs, a tiered system of support that is based on strong core instruction, regular, frequent monitoring of all students and changing interventions when students are not making progress to their expected level. Interventions and instructional supports are available to students not reading at or above grade level in grades Kindergarten through Grade 3. The goal for all students (whether those below, at or above grade level) is to make one or more year of growth in reading every year.

All students are instructed in their targeted growth areas by a licensed teacher. Some identified students receive additional minutes of reading instruction in their school week. Services during the school day are provided in a variety of formats based on student needs. Models of intervention include, but are not limited to:

- Additional instructional flexible group with classroom materials
 - Example: Phonemic Awareness lessons
 - Example: Phonics work with Phonics Readers and making words
 - Example: Fluency work with repeated reading of classroom text
 - Example: Comprehension work with strategy application, discussion and writing to read strategies
- Direct instruction with a research-based reading intervention program and practice with teacher
 - Example: *Triumphs* (phonics/word analysis, vocabulary, fluency and text comprehension)
- Direct instruction in targeted goals with CERF teacher
 - Example: Phonics with *Explode the Code*
 - Example: Fluency work with *Read Naturally*

Core Instruction

Tier One

Tier one instruction is the core instructional program for all students. All classroom teachers are expected to employ best-practices instruction and the district adopted materials. Teachers teach students in flexible groups and with leveled text that allows students to practice and build reading skills and strategies. Teachers create flexible groups using assessment data to support student growth. Half-day Kindergarten students are engaged in a minimum of one hour of literacy instruction each day while full-day kindergarten students participate two hours a day. Students in First through Third Grade also have two hours of instruction per day. The students who are not yet reading at grade level need supported interaction with grade-level and above-grade-level texts in order to:

- build background knowledge,
- experience excellent writing and language models,
- build oral language and vocabulary through rich discussions,
- meaningfully engage with text through a variety of genres.

Tier Two

The second tier of instruction includes targeted interventions for students who may need more time and may need supplemental or different materials or instruction to accelerate growth and reach grade level benchmarks. The goal of reading is making meaning from text; therefore all interventions are designed to support achieving the goal of comprehension. Depending on a student's needs, the intervention may focus on increasing capacity in phonemic awareness, phonics/word study, vocabulary, fluency, or comprehension.

The Centennial Early Reading Foundations (CERF) program provides individual and small group reading instruction to students in grades K-3 who qualify for additional reading support based on screening results from AIMSWEB, MAP scores and teacher input. At Centennial Elementary and Golden Lake Elementary, students in grades K-3 may also be eligible for Targeted Title I services as well as the CERF program. At-risk students at Blue Heron, Centerville and Rice Lake Elementary Schools receive support through CERF. Parents are informed of their child's eligibility for these services. These services are provided in addition to their core literacy classroom curriculum, and include targeted instruction with highly qualified reading teachers. The instruction focuses on the five main pillars of reading as identified by the National Reading Panel – phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, comprehension, and fluency.

Tier Three

In the third tier, students receive increased instruction and may use an alternate curriculum to meet standards and make a year or more of academic growth. They may be taught by a special education teacher. Centennial Public Schools provides a comprehensive program for students with disabilities.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The district-wide calendar sets a minimum of 6 days of professional learning each year. Each elementary site embeds professional learning time into a combination of meeting schedules for all staff, grade-level teams, and professional learning communities. In the 2011-2012 school year, all professional learning communities (PLC) focused on improving reading proficiency. For the 2012-13, 2013-14, and 2014-15 school years' professional development took place during late start and district workshop days. The focus was on critical components of effective literacy instruction, which targeted the five pillars of reading instruction as appropriate for each grade level. Topics for these professional development sessions included the likes of "Understanding and Building Phonemic Awareness," "Comprehension Processes Characteristic of Proficient Readers," and "Fluency: The Bridge Between Word Recognition and Comprehension."

The school district's Department of Teaching and Learning team collaborates with site administrators in order to design high-quality professional development. This team includes the District Literacy Coordinator, the District Curriculum Coordinator, the District Instructional Innovation Coach, and Director of Teaching & Learning. In 2012-13 and 2013-14, the District Literacy Coordinator collaborated with the CERF teachers to further detail, equip, and then collaboratively employ the Read Well By Third Grade professional development at each of the elementary building sites. In 2014-15, all sessions were facilitated by the District Literacy Coordinator. All Centennial teachers (K-5 and ECE) participate regularly in professional development that focuses on scientifically-based reading instruction, for the support of professional skill development and understanding positively impacts student achievement.

SCIENTIFICALLY BASED READING INSTRUCTION

Scientifically-based reading instruction is consistently implemented throughout the elementary grades. The Centennial Language Arts Curriculum Grades K-5 is comprehensive and standards-based. Each aspect of the curriculum has been aligned at each grade level with the Minnesota Language Arts Standards (2010). Students are engaged in Language Arts instruction a minimum of 120 minutes each day in full day Kindergarten, First, Second and Third Grade.

We have reviewed new state standards and aligned current McMillan/McGraw-Hill Reading materials to grade level standards. In order to implement the 2010 Minnesota Language Arts standards in Centennial Public Schools, teachers:

- Use McMillan/McGraw-Hill Reading materials (anthologies, leveled readers, leveled readers, assessments)
- Use other district-selected materials (selected novels, informational text, choice materials both in digital and print formats in the classroom, and media center)
- Employ flexible grouping
- Utilize classroom assessments
- Employ district approved interventions

STUDENT SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR ENGLISH LEARNERS

Centennial has made resources available to all staff to respond to our students' diverse needs. Currently, staff receives training and support in the literacy needs of their English Learners on an as-needed basis. *Treasures*, our core reading curriculum, also incorporates specific supplemental reading materials and instruction for meeting the needs of EL students. Based on current data, additional training and support may be needed. The district employs EL teachers to provide specific instruction for EL students. For further questions contact: srjohnson@isd12.org.

ASSESSMENT METHODS AND DATA

Throughout the school year, teachers, administrators and school staff are involved in regular data reviews to help inform instruction. These regular reviews of student data ensures that each student, regardless of their level of reading ability, receives appropriate instruction geared to meet their needs. Where student achievement data suggests any student or student group is not making adequate growth to meet grade level expectations, a system of instructional supports and interventions will be employed.

Beginning July 1, 2013, post-assessment literacy data will be submitted to the Minnesota Commissioner of Education. Our goal at Centennial public school is for students to meet or exceed grade level state benchmarks and standards in reading, as demonstrated by the following performance indicators:

GRADE	ASSESSMENT	PROFICIENCY
K	AIMSWEB	Letter Name Fluency (LNF): Winter >= 37 Letter Sound Fluency (LSF): Spring >= 41 Nonsense Word Fluency (NWF): Spring >= 34
1	AIMSWEB	Nonsense Word Fluency (NWF): Winter >= 50 Oral Reading Fluency (RCBM): Spring >= 52
2	AIMSWEB	Oral Reading Fluency (RCBM): Spring >= 90
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REFLECTION AND REVIEW

The Centennial Public Schools core curriculum and tiered interventions are effective for many students. Based on the previous five years of data, Centennial Third Graders have consistently outperformed the state average as well as surrounding districts on the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments. Results of the 2013-14 Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment - III released by the Minnesota Department of Education revealed that Centennial Public Schools students continue to achieve at high levels in reading as 67.1% of Centennial's Third Graders met or exceeded the standard. Results from the 2014-15 Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment - III revealed that 70.8% of Centennial's Third Graders met or exceeded the standard.

Our interventions are working for most, but not all students. We will continue to improve our ability to use data to ascertain student learning objectives, personalize the intervention, and measure its effectiveness. Continued staff collaboration between classroom teachers, interventionists, and specialists to align instruction and intervention, with parents/guardians as partners, will allow us to continue to increase the number and percentage of students reading well by third grade.

CERF teachers from each elementary school, the District Literacy Coordinator, elementary principals, the Director of Teaching and Learning and the School Board were all involved in the creation of this working document. As part of continuous improvement within the Centennial Public Schools, the plan will be evaluated and updated with the goal that all Centennial Public School students "Read Well By Third Grade." We will continue to solicit community, parent/guardian and staff input about this plan throughout the upcoming year.

THANKS AND APPRECIATION

We wish to express thanks and appreciation to the staff members who collaborated as reviewer-editors.

Sincerely,

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