

Sumner County Schools

Foundational Literacy Skills Plan

Approved: May 18, 2021

Updated: May 9, 2023

This Foundational Literacy Skills Plan has been approved by the Tennessee Department of Education and meets the requirements of the *Tennessee Literacy Success Act*. All portions of the Foundational Literacy Skills plan were submitted to the department and approved. To view the supplemental artifacts, please contact the district directly.

Daily Foundational Literacy Skills Instruction in Grades K-2

Sumner County Schools currently spends 75 minutes on foundational literacy skills in grades PreK through Second Grade. Foundational literacy skills instruction is the primary form of instruction for students in grades Kindergarten through Second Grade. Sumner County uses Foundations to teach foundational literacy skills in Prek-Kindergarten through Third Grade. Foundations is aligned to the TN State Standards and provides student practice in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Grades K-2 use Geodes that aligns with Foundations to build fluent readers, an early understanding of story structure, offers practice in decoding words, phrases, and simple sentences.

Daily Foundational Literacy Skills Instruction in Grades 3-5

Sumner County students in grades Third through Fifth receive between 30-45 minutes daily in foundational literacy skills instruction. Sumner County uses Wit and Wisdom that builds knowledge and explicitly teaches foundational literacy skills and standards. The instruction is aligned to the TN State Standards and includes morphology, grammar, spelling, writing, and fluency. Foundations is used to explicitly teach foundational literacy skills in Third Grade. Wit and Wisdom will be used to teach foundational literacy skills in grades Fourth and Fifth. Both of these curricula include explicit supports for fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Just Words is used in 4th-5th grades as a Tier II instructional material to fill gaps in decoding and build phonics proficiency.

Approved Instructional Materials for Grades K-2

Approved waiver for other materials

Approved Instructional Materials for Grades 3-5

Great Minds - 3-5 Wit and Wisdom

Additional Information about Instructional Materials

Sumner County Schools has adopted Wit and Wisdom for grades K-5. We currently have Foundations for grades PreK-3. Along with W & W and Foundations, we have Geodes for grades K-2. We are so excited to have such high quality curricula for our students!

Universal Reading Screener for Grades K-5. This screener complies with RTI² and Say Dyslexia requirements.

Sumner County Schools uses Easy CBM as the universal reading screener in grades K-5. Easy CBM does comply with RTI and Say Dyslexia requirements.

Intervention Structure and Supports

Sumner County Schools uses Wilson Reading materials as reading interventions for students identified as "at-risk" for a significant reading deficiency. Foundations and Geodes are two of the evidence-based interventions that students will receive and are differentiated based on Tier II and Tier III student needs. Sumner County's intervention schedules are aligned to the expectations in the RTI manual. Students in Tier II and Tier III receive 45 minutes in intervention to address and progress monitor specific skill gaps. Sumner County uses the Easy CBM screener to identify deficiencies in fluency, comprehension, vocabulary, letter names, letter sounds, word reading, and phoneme segmenting. Students that are identified as "at-risk" are given the Core Phonics Survey to identify more specific areas of greatest need. Students are progress monitored bi-weekly to monitor progress of skill gaps. Data teams meet every 4 1/2 weeks to monitor student data and to inform decisions about duration, material, and intensity changes when a student is not showing progress.

Parent Notification Plan/Home Literacy Reports

Sumner County Schools notifies families with a letter when their child is considered "at-risk" for a reading deficiency based on the Easy CBM screener results. Parents will receive letters three times a year. Once in the fall, winter, and spring for grades Kindergarten through Fifth Grade. In addition to those three letters, parents with students in Tier II and Tier III will receive information regarding their child's specific progress every 4 1/2 weeks. This information will be based on the student's specific progress monitoring results and progress made in the evidence-based materials. Our parent letters for 2021-2022 were revised to share more resources that families can access at home to help support their child at no cost. Our parent letter gives details of student scores in parent-friendly language. It provides a clear explanation of the skill gaps and the depth and extent of the student need. The letter will inform the parents how those gaps will be addressed during the intervention through the specific program used. The back of the letter lists many free resources that families can use at home to support their child. These resources consist of videos created by Sumner County teachers that are explicitly teaching foundational literacy skills with Foundations curriculum. Teachers will list the video number that matches with the student's skill deficit. Teachers will also send home specific curriculum materials that families can use at home for free. One example is a student receiving fluency passages if the student's deficit is fluency. There is a statement that provides information on the importance of 3rd grade reading proficiency.

Professional Development Plan

All Pre-K through Fifth Grade Sumner County teachers were able to sign up and take the state's literacy training. This opportunity is two weeks of training for all teachers Kindergarten through Fifth Grade. The teachers will complete one-week online that focuses on early literacy skills. The second

week will be in June and July in Sumner County. This week is facilitated by the TNTP and will deepen our teachers' understanding on foundational literacy skills. This training will allow teachers to practice the new learning with actual application of Sumner County's Foundation's Curriculum. This gives Sumner County teachers an opportunity to demonstrate knowledge and competency in foundational literacy skills. Our district has adopted Foundations for grades Pre-Kindergarten through Third Grade. Sumner County will offer a reboot of training to help teachers with Foundations and Geodes. These trainings will be offered in July and then again ongoing throughout the school year.

All of these professional development trainings on foundational literacy skills will be continuously followed up on through weekly PLCs, coaching cycles, focused professional learning from our district, vendors, and through TDOE. The district will also implement weekly ELA walkthroughs using a revised model of the IPG walkthrough tool. Through these walkthroughs Sumner County educators are able to provide specific feedback and training on the curriculum.