




# K-5 ELA Presentation

Montclair Public Schools

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- Needs
  - Process
  - Input
  - Recommendations
  - Plan

# Observed Needs

Across 7 Schools, inconsistencies in

- Materials
- Instructional Practices
- Implementation of Balanced Literacy
- Time Spent
- Professional Development
- Student Progress Monitoring

# Process

- Review of trends, needs, materials
- Meetings with principals
- Survey of K-5 teachers  
(99 participated)
- ELA K-5 Committee  
(24 members)

# Committee Representation

- All 7 schools
- At least one primary teacher K-2
- At least one intermediate teacher 3-5
- Populations represented-
  - Racial diversity
  - Special education
  - Gifted and talented
  - Curriculum support
  - Building administrators

# From the Survey

- More and varied assessments to inform teaching
- Structure within program
- Options for teacher to address needs of range of children in class
- Consistency in school and between schools
- More structure for teaching grammar, usage, mechanics
- More connections with science and social studies topics
- More books for students to read
- More time for ELA

# From the Committee

- Maintain Balanced Literacy approach
- Student material choices to meet the needs of the range of students
- Teacher materials designed to strengthen best practices
- Materials that are research-based
- Technology infused
- User-friendly for teachers

# Equity and Consistency

- Same access to high quality ELA resources, books, and materials in sufficient quantities
- Teach all children in our schools to read and write at grade level or beyond
- Close the achievement gap





# Recommendations

**Materials that will help  
teachers improve teaching  
and learning for ALL  
students**

# District Purchase

- **Making Meaning K-5**
  - Whole class comprehension strategies, vocabulary development and read alouds
- **Being a Writer K-5**
  - Workshop model with explicit instruction and authentic anchor texts
- **Being a Reader K-2**
  - Focus on early foundational skills, acceleration of learning
- **Professional Development**

# Maintain District Use of

- Balanced Literacy Approach
- Foundations K-2
- Manuscript Handwriting
- Cursive Handwriting
- LLI (RtI Tier III intervention)

# Common PD for 2016- 2017

- Grade level PD
- All teachers in grade level included
- Add class visits and meetings in all schools



# Time in Class for ELA

Grades K-5

120 minutes daily

# Sense of Urgency

- Students who are reading below grade level must accelerate more than a year's growth each year to attain grade level performance.
- Time needs to be used very skillfully to make this happen.

# What Students Need Every Day

1. Read something he/she chooses
2. Read accurately
3. Read something he/she understands
4. Write something personally meaningful
5. Talk with peers about reading and writing
6. Listen to a fluent adult read aloud

# Phonics and Foundational Skills

- **Foundations: K-2 whole class**
- **Being a Reader: phonics at point of need, small group**



# Writing

- Workshop model with
  - Anchor texts
  - Modeling
  - Explicit instruction to meet needs of all students
  - Integrates grammar, usage, mechanics

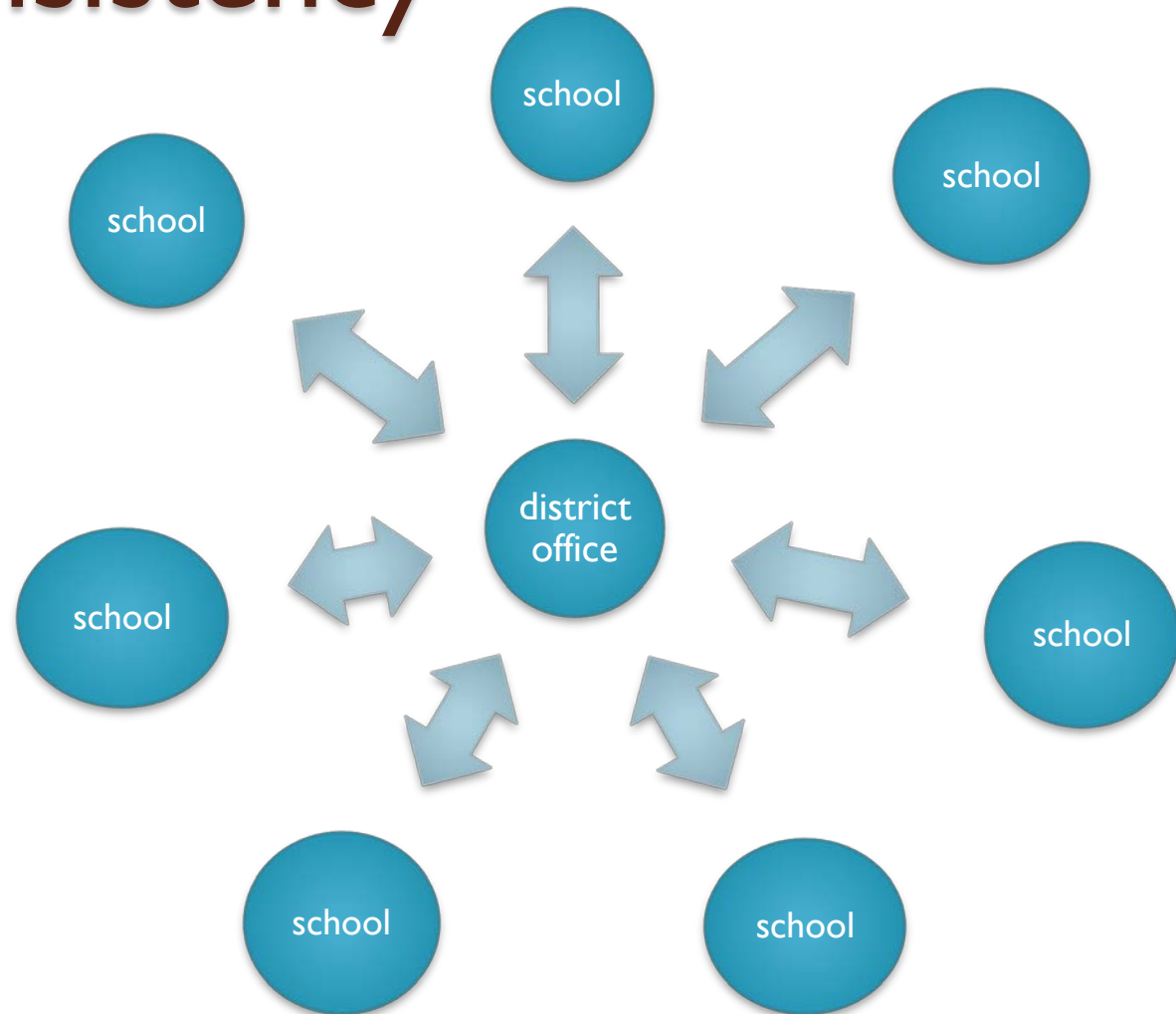
# Importance of Independent Daily Reading

- Balance of teaching and “practice”
- Time each day for students to “really read” in the classroom
- Develop the HABIT in school so students will choose to read outside school

# Advantages

- Materials help teachers to focus on fine-tuning craft, succinct wording and best questions to elicit accelerated rate of learning
- Focus on gradual release of responsibility to students (including explicit instruction)
- Assessment options for classroom use to help teachers monitor student progress
- Pointers for developing collaborative community of learners and social skills

# Plan: Develop Structure and Consistency



# Reading Specialists/Coaches

- Professional support for students, teachers, families
- Foster collaboration and consistency between schools and district

# April- Summer

- Order materials
- PD day for K-5 teachers (by grade level)
- PD for Administrators
- Report card updates
- Curriculum guide updates
- Develop 4-5 Year Implementation Plan
- Connect with Middle Schools

# In the Bigger Context

## Connections:

- Families
- Montclair Public Library
- Montclair State University
- Community Partners

# Special Thanks

- The Committee
- Grace Ko, Supervisor
- K-5 Teachers
- Elementary Principals
- Superintendent Bolandi