

# Curriculum Materials Review

English Language Arts  
2025-2027

# Curriculum Shifts

2010 ELA Standards → 2020 ELA Standards → 2025-26 Full Implementation

## Content Shifts

- Broader definition of literacy: reading, writing, *speaking, listening, viewing*
- Increased focus on media literacy and digital texts
- Stronger emphasis on diverse perspectives & culturally relevant texts
- Integration of literacy across content areas (not isolated in ELA)
- Founded in the science of reading

## Instructional Shifts

- More student-centered learning & choice
- Emphasis on discussion, collaboration and communication
- Use of authentic texts and real-world tasks
- Ongoing formative assessment embedded in instruction
- Focus on critical thinking, not just comprehension

# Current Curriculum: Fountas & Pinnell (Balanced Literacy)

- Guided reading: Leveled texts matched to student reading levels individually or in small groups
  - Students read a book at their level, teacher prompts students to use Meaning/Structure/Visual strategies to determine unknown words, focus is on processing text and comprehension
- Shared reading: Whole-group reading where teacher and students read the same text together
  - Teacher models fluent reading, students can join in, focus on modeling skills and building confidence
- Interactive Read-Aloud (IRA): Teacher reads aloud to students and pauses for discussion and thinking
  - Text often above student reading level, teacher models comprehension strategies, students turn and talk, focus is on understanding thinking
- Benchmark assessments place students into reading levels based on accuracy and comprehension

# Foundational Skills

- UFLI Foundations (Structured Literacy)
  - Systematic, explicit phonics instruction following a clear scope and sequence
  - Daily routines focused on decoding, encoding, and word reading
  - Strong emphasis on phoneme-grapheme mapping and automaticity
  
- Heggerty (Phonemic Awareness)
  - Systematic, explicit phonics instruction following a clear scope and sequence
  - Daily routines focused on decoding, encoding, and word reading
  - Strong emphasis on phoneme-grapheme mapping and automaticity

# Curricular Material Review Overview: K-5

- The team reviewed four highly or partially aligned curricula as evaluated by MDE
  - Amplify CKLA (Comprehensive Curriculum)
  - Open-Up English Language Education (Comprehensive Curriculum)
  - HMH Into Reading (Comprehensive Curriculum)
  - Wit & Wisdom (Knowledge Building Curriculum)
- Our review team included three homeroom teachers from each grade K-4 and the 5th grade ELA teacher
- Process:
  - Review MDE rubric and report on curriculum
  - Meeting with Curriculum Rep
  - Time to review sample materials and digital platform
  - Individual and group feedback through use of a rubric (simplified but based on MDE rubric)

# Curricular Material Review Overview: 6-8

- The team selected two curricula to review based on K-5 curriculum reviewed by MDE.
  - Amplify ELA
  - HMH Into Literature
- Our review team included the three middle school ELA teachers (6-8 grade)
- Process:
  - Meeting with Curriculum Rep
  - Time to review sample materials and digital platform
  - Individual and group feedback through use of a rubric (simplified but based on MDE rubric)

# Curricular Material Review Overview: 9-12

- The team reviewed two curricula based on needs identified during summer curriculum writing in June 2025
  - HMH Into Literature
  - Common Lit 360 (currently use resources from free version)
- Our review team included the five high school ELA teachers
- Process:
  - Time to review sample materials and digital platform

# K-4 Recommendation: Amplify CKLA

Chosen because:

- Strongest alignment to Science of Reading / MN READ Act
- Clear, systematic phonics progression with aligned decodables
- Coherent design connecting phonics, knowledge, vocabulary, and writing
- Content-rich curriculum that builds background knowledge across subjects
  - Several books are directly aligned to science and social studies standards and reinforce vocabulary used across disciplines
- Teacher-friendly structure that reduces planning variability and streamlines teacher usability
- Provides a consistent K–4 instructional framework across classrooms

# K-4 Recommendation: Amplify CKLA

## Includes:

- All-in-one digital platform
- Comprehensive teacher materials for the knowledge strand and skill strand
- 5-7 sets of classroom readers (24/set)
- 1 year of student activity books
  - Can print activity books or individual pages after year one
- 1 year of professional development
  - K-2: 6 hours in person, 3 hours virtual mid-year, 3 hours or 3 x 1-hour check-ins
  - 3-4: 6 hours in person, 3 hours virtual mid-year, 3 hours or 3 x 1-hour check-ins
  
- Cost: \$115,758.24

# 5-8 Recommendation: HMH Into Reading/Into Literature

Chosen because:

- More engaging, authentic texts with a wider range of genres and perspectives
- Clear alignment to Minnesota standards with a structured, spiraled progression of skills
- Greater flexibility for teachers in instruction, text selection, and pacing
- Multiple assessment options allowing varied ways for students to demonstrate learning
- Strong vertical alignment across grades 5–8 with a comprehensive literacy approach

# 5-8 Recommendation: HMH Into Reading/Into Literature

Includes:

- Student digital licenses: digital library, student resources and writable
- Teacher digital licenses: digital library, teacher's corner, writable, assessment resources
- 2 hour virtual training for 5th grade teacher, 2 hour virtual training for 6-8th grade team

## 5th Grade

- Teacher Guide Set
- Teaching Pal Set (myBook teacher guide)
- Tabletop MiniLessons (tier II small group)
- Focal Reading Text Set
- Rights to print "Student Know It, Show It" workbook pages
- Classroom set of myBook Softcovers
  - Integrated, grade-level texts and tasks that connect reading, writing, and vocabulary in a cohesive, student-friendly format.

## 6-8th Grade

- Teacher Guide Book
- Rights to print grammar workbook pages
- Classroom set of softcover student edition
  - Integrated, grade-level texts and tasks that connect reading, writing, and vocabulary in a cohesive, student-friendly format.

**Cost: \$127,322.93**

# 9-12 Recommendation: Common Lit 360

Chosen because:

- Integrates reading, writing, and speaking/listening within standards-aligned units (LSVEI strands)
- Emphasizes analysis of complex texts using evidence and critical thinking
- Includes frequent, standards-aligned writing tasks (argument, informational, narrative)
- Embeds structured discussion and student discourse aligned to communication standards
- Provides scaffolds, text sets, and differentiation to support diverse learners and equitable access
- Offers flexible, leveled text sets and supports that allow differentiation across course levels (e.g., English 9 and Advanced English 9) while maintaining alignment to grade-level standards

# 9-12 Recommendation: Common Lit 360 PRO Plus

Includes:

- Comprehensive curriculum with engaging text library, full-year units, and embedded instruction
  - Clear standards alignment and consistent skill progression across grade levels, with teacher-friendly tools and data that support instructional planning, differentiation, and day-to-day usabilityRobust assessment system with unit, benchmark, and data dashboard tools
  - Strong platform integration (ClassLink & Clever) for streamlined student use
  - Dedicated support including account management and priority customer service
  - \*\*Ongoing professional learning including on-demand modules, webinars, and implementation support
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- \*\*Year 1 School Essentials Pro Plus: \$6,850
  - Years 2-6:
    - School Essentials Pro \$20,400
    - School Essentials Pro Plus \$35,100