



Mountain View
Whisman
School District

English Language Arts Programs Update

February 1, 2018





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English Language Arts

English Language Arts (ELA)/Literacy Standards

- The California standards for ELA/Literacy - adopted in August 2010
 - Highlight critical skills and expectations necessary to develop literacy in the twenty-first century
 - Emphasize the importance of building knowledge through a balanced study of content-rich informational and literary texts
 - Foster reading, writing, and speaking skills grounded in evidence from texts
 - Develop careful analyses, well-defended claims, and clearly articulated information
 - Underscore the need for regular practice with complex texts and academic language

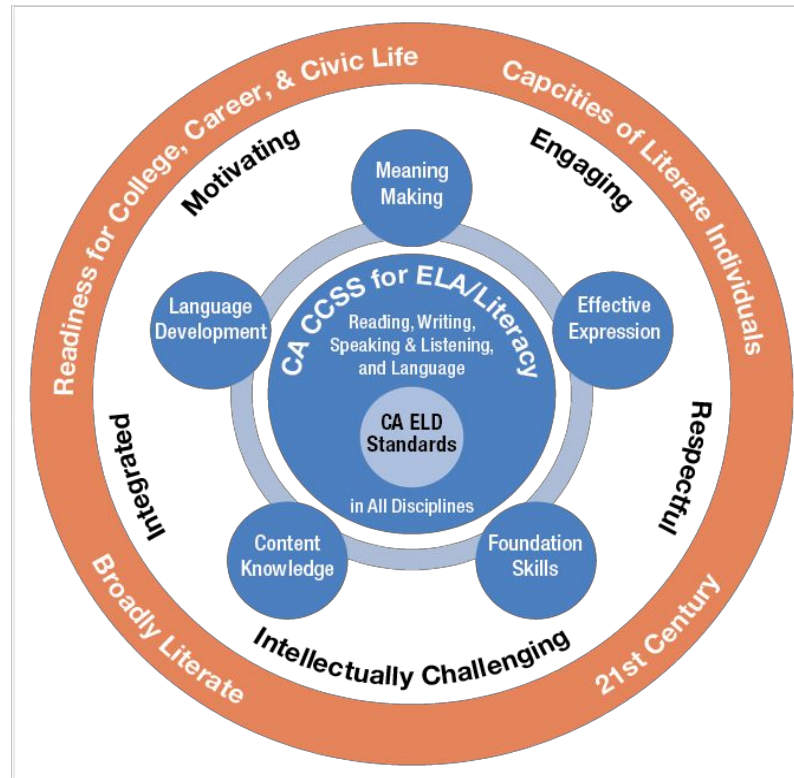
English Language Development Standards (ELD)

- California English Language Development Standards - adopted in 2012
 - Intentionally aligned with the California Common Core Standards for ELA/Literacy
 - Amplify areas of English language development that research has shown are crucial for academic learning
 - Describe key knowledge, skills, and abilities in core areas that are necessary for English learners to successfully engage with, and achieve success in, grade-level academic content

English Language Arts/English Language Development Framework

- A new English Language Arts /English Language Development Framework was adopted on July 9, 2014
- The new ELA/ELD Framework
 - Recognizes the importance of both content and skill development
 - Recognizes the need to learn how to think, read, write, and argue in English
 - Basis for remodeling our instructional practice and promoting literacy through critical thinking and problem solving, collaboration, and communication
 - Integrates the California Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects (CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy) and the California English Language Development Standards

English Language Arts Framework



- The state of California approved a list of instructional materials for possible adoption by Districts in November 2015



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Current Programming

Elementary Programming

- K-5 English Programs: *Advance*, Benchmark Publishing Company,
- K-5 Spanish/English Dual Immersion Program: *Adelante*, Benchmark Publishing Company
- Combined English Language Arts and English Language Development curriculum
- Adopted June 2016
- Unit Topics - Grades K-5

Government and Citizenship	Character
Life Science	Point of View
Technology and Society	Theme
History and Culture	Earth Science
Economics	Physical Science

Middle School Programming

- **Curriculum:**
 - 6-8 English Programs: *Study Sync*, McGraw Hill Publishing Company
 - Adopted June 2016
- **Themes:** Each grade level program is divided into 4 themes
- **Text Selection**
 - Excerpts, and full-length works
 - Current and classic literature
 - High interest themes and essential questions.
- **Text Analysis Lessons**
 - Close reading of texts with a direct read-write connection
 - Students respond frequently and meaningfully to texts
 - Vocabulary, spelling, and grammar are embedded throughout and tied back to the literature

Middle School Programming

- LCAP Goal 2, Action 20 - Site administrators will work with the English Language Arts departments, middle school literacy coach, and personnel from feeder high schools to backward map and align expectations for students in 6th-8th grade English Language Arts with District support.
 - Middle and High School Inter District Writing Assessment (IDWA) Committee meets monthly
 - Alignment of teaching of reading, writing, and synthesis
 - Common assessment, rubrics, and alignment in evaluation of student work
 - Joint grade level release days focused on planning and alignment between schools facilitated by the Literacy coaches
 - Literacy coaches meet regularly with site administrators

Middle School Programming

- The ELA/ELD Framework integrates the California Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science
 - Middle School Literacy coaches have been working with Social Studies and Science teachers to integrate literacy into their content area instruction
 - Social Studies and Science teachers have partnered with Language Arts teachers to score District writing assessments



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Things to Consider

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- Teachers have been learning new standards in mathematics, English Language Arts, Literacy, and English Language Development since 2014
 - District professional development on the new curriculum was provided to all staff in August and December 2016
- Additional professional development for teachers is provided by the instructional coaches
- Continued professional development is needed for teachers on the new framework and any curriculum
 - The District has 6 dedicated days for professional development each year
 - The District is in year 1 of a 3 year implementation of the Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol

Things to Consider

- Elementary teachers must be experts in English Language Arts, Math, Science, History-Social Science, English Language Development while middle school teachers are content experts in one subject
- There is a need to provide supplemental materials and professional development to support teachers in the area of writing
- RTI at elementary school provides intervention or enrichment in literacy
- RTI at middle school will allow for additional support or enrichment in literacy for some students



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Next Steps

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- Create professional development opportunities that continue to improve teacher practice in providing rigorous instruction which leads to improved student outcomes in listening, speaking, reading, and writing
 - Especially important for our English Language Learners who will be taking the new English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC)
- Research professional development and supplemental materials for writing
- Continue the focus on RTI at elementary
- Build the RTI programs for Literacy in middle school
- Continue articulation with high schools, across our middle school sites, and begin articulation with elementary