



Information for Parents: New Curriculum Resource for English Language Arts

WCPSS has excellent teachers, strong leaders and a wealth of support from parents and the community. We are dedicated to providing our teachers with the best resources possible to ensure students are learning what they must know to be prepared for college, career and life.

We have chosen **EL Education** as the new curriculum resource to support teachers of English Language Arts (ELA) in grades 3 through 8 starting with grades 3 and 6 for the 2017-18 school year.



What is EL Education? EL Education is a curriculum written by and for teachers with emphasis placed on active learning and student engagement. Classrooms are structured with highly collaborative activities that allow students to engage in academic conversations and investigations of rich academic topics. EL aims to contribute to a student’s ability to be globally competitive and active contributors in building a better world.

What are the ‘Learning Paths’ for Students within EL Education?

Building Background Knowledge	→Extended Reading and Research	→ Extended Writing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning and practicing collaborative structures to use throughout the learning; • Discovering the purpose for learning new skills that build towards the standards; • Identifying inquiry questions related to the task clearly and precisely; and • Having extensive opportunities to build knowledge through texts so they can learn independently. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Becoming experts on a compelling topic and texts; • Gaining academic and content-specific vocabulary; reading, writing and speaking with evidence; • Listening, understanding, evaluating and communicating effectively by adapting to different audiences, tasks and purposes; and • Seeking out various viewpoints, respectfully listening to and considering the ideas of others, and then providing and using constructive feedback to improve the work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing from sources about topics students understand deeply; • Developing a vision of quality work in collaboration with their peers and revising their own work accordingly; • Sharing their learning and excitement with peers, teachers and others beyond the classroom (authentic experiences); • Synthesizing information and making connections between information and arguments; and • Applying current research or knowledge in a unique way.

What resources will be provided? Each learning module comes with books – not textbooks -- which have been carefully selected by the authors as the best books for teaching grade level content. Students will be provided a central text for use during their study of a module. These central texts are supported by a list of recommended texts—books, articles, and primary source documents—that balance literary and informational texts at appropriate levels of complexity.

What should families see at home? Students will have homework assignments related to what they are reading at school. They will be expected to independently read at home and engage families in conversations about the topic.