

Note: More information about opting in or declining the district curriculum option for 2015-16 can be found in this [guidance document](#).

1. Why is the district adopting new materials for the coming school year?

- We heard you! We heard loudly and clearly from our school leaders and teachers that the existing materials were not as closely aligned with the Colorado Academic Standards, including the Common Core State Standards, as they needed to be.
- We will be adopting new curricular materials for the kids we serve over the next several years, in a rolling adoption cycle. It would be incredibly difficult – both from a funding and a change management perspective – to adopt all grades and subjects in just a year or two.
- Through our strategic planning process, we have accelerated [the adoption cycle](#) to ensure that we can get quality resources in the hands of teachers as quickly as possible.

2. What curriculum has the district selected for the 2015-16 school year?

- For literacy, grades 4-8: [EngageNY curriculum](#) created by Expeditionary Learning.
- For math, grades 6-8: [Connected Mathematics Project 3 \(CMP3\)](#) created by Pearson.
- We will pilot a select number of K-3 literacy programs. School leaders should work with their instructional superintendents if they are interested in becoming pilot sites.

3. What was the process for choosing the curriculum?

- We issued a request for proposals for curriculum providers. Using a nationally accredited rubric for review, a committee composed of teachers, school leaders and representatives from Gifted and Talented, Student Services, English Language Acquisition, Educational Technology, CSO and Teaching and Learning then met over six months to review materials and make the final recommendations to the Chief Academic and Innovation Office and Superintendent.

4. Why choose this literacy curriculum?

- Based on extensive review and discussions with districts that have already adopted Common Core aligned curriculum, we believe the EngageNY curriculum for grades 4-8 is an exemplary standards-based literacy option for our students, including English Language Learners. The lessons include rigorous and complex texts, meaningful performance tasks, and lessons that will promote differentiation of supports for students at all through choice opportunities.
- For complete details on the EngageNY curriculum, including support for scheduling, modules and implementation, please see the [literacy implementation guide](#).
 - o Grade 4
 - Module 1B: Poetry, Biography and Writer’s Identity
 - Module 2B: Animal Defense Mechanisms
 - Module 3A: Simple Machines
 - Module 4: The leadership of Frederick Douglass, Susan B. Anthony and DeWitt Clinton

- o Grade 5
 - Module 1: Stories of Human Rights
 - Module 2A: Biodiversity in Rainforests of the Western Hemisphere
 - Module 3A: Sports and Athletes' Impact on Culture
 - Module 4: Natural Disasters in the Western Hemisphere
- o Grade 6
 - Module 1: Myths: Not Just Long Ago
 - Module 2A: Rules to Live By
 - Module 3A: The Land of the Golden Mountain
 - Module 4: Insecticides: Controlling Disease or Saving Wildlife?
- o Grade 7
 - Module 1: Journeys
 - Module 2A: Child Labor
 - Module 3: Slavery: The People Could Fly.
 - Module 4B: Water is Life
- o Grade 8
 - Module 1: Finding Home: Immigration
 - Module 2B: A Midsummer Night's Dream and the Comedy of Control
 - Module 3A: Japanese American Relations in WWII
 - Module 3B: The Civil Rights Movement and the Little Rock Nine
 - Module 4: Sustainability of the World's Food Supply

5. Why are we adopting curriculum that only serves grades 4-8?

- After a comprehensive review, we did not find a curriculum for grades K-3 that meets our standards, the needs of our English learners and students receiving instruction in Spanish. We prefer to have one curriculum for K-8; however, we have worked with some of the nation's most prominent publishers without success in finding viable solutions to support our diverse students.
- We are working with prominent researchers and curriculum designers to buy or construct a program for our K-3 classrooms, which we will pilot in select networks in spring 2016.
- While we agree that it might be ideal to adopt one curriculum K-8, we also know that the literacy needs of our youngest learners are distinct. As we work to secure a K-3 option, we are now able to focus specifically on ensuring we meet early literacy needs.

6. What supports will you offer K-3 teachers?

- For the 2014-15 school year, we purchased new classroom libraries and guided reading resources in English and Spanish for all K-3 teachers. K-3 teachers will continue to use the existing curriculum and these new resources for the 2015-16 school year.
- For your support, we have increased the number of language and literacy partners to support high-quality adult learning and to continue expanding the successes of our Guided Reading Plus program. Also, we have revised the literacy block and included explicit supports for phonics resources from Core Knowledge Skills Strand and Fountas & Pinnell's Continuum of Literacy Learning.

7. What are we doing with literacy curriculum for English language learners?

- To continue our focus on biliteracy and the strategic use of two languages, we are commissioning the creation of a Spanish paired-literacy curriculum for grade 4 and 5 ELA-S classrooms that is connected to the EngageNY curriculum. It will have daily instruction in Spanish that builds reading, writing and listening skills. These resources will be provided as soon as they are available.
- We are also working to adopt a K-3 curriculum in 2016-17 that better supports our English language learners in both English and Spanish.
- ELA-S teachers will receive Spanish texts that pair with the English texts for the core curriculum. Beyond this, teachers will also receive resources in Spanish as they implement the paired literacy block.

8. Why did we choose the CMP3 math curriculum for grades 6-8?

- CMP3 for grades 6-8 is built around authentic, rich tasks that support students in making sense of mathematics and improving their procedural skill and fluency. The lessons provide materials and strategies that support teachers in developing a deeper understanding of the Colorado Academic Standards and are available in English and Spanish. CMP3 also has a companion online resource that will support personalized instruction for students.

9. What about curriculum for grades 9-12?

- The curriculum adoption cycle for grades 9-12 will begin in the 2015-16 school year with committee reviews of curricular options. [See the full curriculum adoption cycle.](#)

10. When will I receive literacy curriculum at my school? What will be included?

- Delivery of the EngageNY curriculum will occur by the first required summer math/literacy professional learning session, June 17-19; the second session is July 20-22.
- DPS is buying class sets of all student-level required texts, and one book per teacher of the teacher-level required texts. We also are purchasing classroom collections of independent reading books for each module to support the independent reading component of the curriculum.
- In addition, we are providing 1 spiral-bound copy per teacher of all curriculum materials (also available in [Word and PDF](#)). Each teacher will receive a total of 12 spiral-bound curriculum documents (4 modules per grade x 3 units per module).

11. When will I receive math curriculum at my school? What will be included?

- Delivery of the CMP3 curriculum will occur by the first required summer math/literacy professional learning session, June 17-19; the second session is July 20-22.
- Access to online tools will begin with curriculum delivery.
- Subsidies for printing and copying are not anticipated; books are being ordered for all students.

12. How should we use planning time, lesson plans and literacy blocks?

- Full details on preparing for modules, using planning time, scheduling literacy blocks, the workshop model and more can be found in the [literacy implementation guide](#).

13. With Guided Reading the focus for K-3 literacy, what will implementation and training look like for schools that have not yet participated?

- Academic network partners will work closely with K-3 teacher teams to develop best practices in Guided Reading and in data analysis using running records, and to incorporate Interactive Read Aloud into daily lesson planning (focused on oral language development, analyzing complex text and text-dependent questions).

14. When will we receive a district scope and sequence?

- Literacy and math in all grades will have a DPS Scope and Sequence to support teachers in planning for the units of study. These will be available by June 5 via the Standards Toolkit.

15. What if I don't want to opt in to these DPS selected and supported curricular resources?

You are not required to opt in to the district option; however, the following guidelines must be followed in choosing alternative resources. Curriculum materials must be:

- CCSS/CAS aligned - Demonstrated by evaluation on the DPS Curricular Resources Rubric, or a comparable national evaluation system ([Instructional Material Evaluation Tool](#)).
- Include embedded pedagogical practices that support the diverse students in DPS or the specific student population at a given school.
- Equitable for the district's English learners and ELA-S population (must have resources in Spanish of comparable quality).
- Provide grade- and subject-appropriate Spanish language core content materials, comparable to the English-language content materials used in Mainstream English language classrooms, for ELLs who are taught in Spanish in ELA-S and dual language classes.
- **Teacher or school created resources will not be approved for the 2015-16 school year (unless the school has a pre-existing, pre-approved waiver for this purpose).**

For more information about the opt-in process and additional details about curricular options, please see this [guidance document](#).

Please send additional questions to flexibility@dpsk12.org. We will continue to update this FAQ as we receive additional questions.

