

Haywood County Schools Vision for Early Literacy Instruction

It is our belief that all students can and will read proficiently upon entering 3rd grade. It is our responsibility as a district to support the literacy growth and development of every student by ensuring each student receives high-quality, aligned instruction that is anchored in the science of reading. All kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd-grade students within their respective grade level will be working towards a set of common goals and individual learning targets that will position them to meet the grade-level expectations and be on track to be proficient readers by 3rd grade. The goals and learning targets, provided in student-friendly language, will be aligned to TN FS Skills Standards¹ and the progression of skills within the English learner curriculum and will reflect a set of priority skills critical to grade-level progression.

We will work across stakeholders to ensure students meet their goals. A group of key players including teachers, educational assistants, school leaders, and caregivers will collaborate to support all students on their literacy journey. Each student will have a simple portfolio where progress can be monitored, recorded, and celebrated so that all of those involved know where students are on their journey and can identify the areas where additional practice is needed. Additionally, we collectively commit to:

- a 180-minute early literacy instruction block that incorporates a mixture of whole-group, small-group, and individualized instruction and practice opportunities
- an at-home expectation of 30 minutes of daily work towards the goals (caregiver materials will be provided to support the work)
- an incentive program to motivate students and make the experience fun and engaging as well as to build a positive culture around reading and writing
- a plan for monitoring student progress to ensure students are making progress towards their individual goals
- clear communication and collaboration between all stakeholders regarding student progress to goals

Our ultimate goal is to accelerate student learning in a positive and productive way so that students master skills critical to reading and writing development and are celebrated over the course of their journey.

¹ Tennessee Foundational Skills Standards