

# **New York Mills ISD #553**

## **Local Literacy Plan 2016-2017**

### **2011 Minnesota Statute: 120B.12**

#### **Reading Proficiency no later than the end of Grade 3**

##### **Minnesota State Literacy Goal:**

The state of Minnesota legislature seeks to have every child reading at or above grade level no later than the end of grade 3 and that teachers provide comprehensive, scientifically based reading instruction.

##### **Local Literacy Plan:**

A school district must adopt a local literacy plan to have every child reading at or above grade no later than the end of grade 3. The plan must include a process to:

1. Assess all student's level of reading proficiency K-6
2. Notify and involve parents
3. Intervene with students who are not reading at or above grade level
4. Identify and meet staff development needs

##### **Reading Proficiently by 3<sup>rd</sup> grade:**

The state mandate requires school districts to design their programming to make sure that students are reading proficiently by the end of grade 3. A review of conducted research consistently reveals a very strong correlation between children's reading proficiency at grade 3 and rate of high school graduation. Students who are reading at grade level by the end of grade 3 consistently perform better in school for the years to come as compared to those students who are not reading proficiently at the end of grade 3. It is our responsibility to ensure that our students are college or career ready when they leave our educational system.

##### **Commitment to Sound Literacy Instruction:**

New York Mills Elementary is committed to ensuring that all children read proficiently by grade 3 and are making sure that all children reach their academic potential. At New York Mills Elementary ensuring that every child can read is our #1 priority.

We recognize that we are living in the information age. Without the ability to read and understand what is being read, a person will have difficulty functioning and succeeding in our society. Over the past decade alone, the amount of information requiring more advanced levels of comprehension, writing skills, problem solving abilities and critical thinking has grown tremendously. As a result, adults with limited reading skills will have fewer opportunities for success in society. Therefore, it has never been more important to us that every child learns to read and we are committed to do whatever it takes to ensure every child in our district becomes a functional reader.

Written below are the details to the plan that New York Mills Elementary is prepared to follow to ensure that the necessary components are in place so that all children will be reading well by the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

## Sound Literacy Instruction:

During the 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 school years, the teachers at New York Mills Elementary conducted an extensive study of the Minnesota State Standards for English Language Arts. Using a process titled “The 6As Process for Aligning your Curriculum to the State Standards” teachers identified which standards were priority standards for their grade level and then re-wrote those standards in parent and student friendly language or “I Can Statements.” During the 2015-16 school year, our teachers committed to joining a Literacy Action Network to intensely study best practices in the area of elementary reading instruction. Though this is an on-going process, from this research, New York Mills Elementary has created a draft Universal Expectations Guide to guide literacy instruction for grades Pre-K-6 and plans to continue to modify this guide as we continue to research and attend best practice trainings. We have also committed to training all teachers in Grades K-6 with the Daily 5/CAFÉ framework and strategies for literacy instruction in addition to the purchase of and commitment to implement The American Reading Company program.

We are very excited to be implementing a new Reading Program this year from the American Reading Company. This framework for teaching reading is built around the Common Core State Standards and will provide our teachers with the on-going training and tools needed to ensure, through classroom instruction and through individual conferences, that students not only learn to read more difficult books, but also learn to think about and critically analyze the information they read. Along with our new Reading Program, we are also very excited to have hired a Literacy Coach Assistant this year! Our new Reading Program will incorporate the following:

1	2	3	4	5	6
Smart School Systems	Educator Efficacy	Baseline Reading Levels	Schoolwide Reading Culture	Academically Successful Home Routines	Rigorous Standards-Based Instruction at Grade Level
<p><b>5 Touchstones for Excellence and Equity</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Examine the unconscious biases, fears, and assumptions that may constrain students' chances to be college and career ready.</li> <li>2. Change entrenched institutional practices, including curriculum and instruction, that work against closing achievement gaps.</li> <li>3. Create a healthy learning environment for students of all races and ethnicities, particularly students of color who have historically been excluded or underserved.</li> <li>4. Create a hospitable learning environment for students of all genders, including both male and female students as well as students with nonconforming gender presentations.</li> <li>5. Meet the additional challenges that multigenerational, hypersegregated poverty brings for many students.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Goal</b></p> <p>Adults open their minds and hearts to the possibility (and likelihood) that they are, unintentionally, reinforcing entrenched inequalities. Educators commit to examining and improving their own practice using shared, validated student growth data.</p> 	<p><b>Goal</b></p> <p>Students determine their own reading levels and commit to closing the gap between where they are and where they should be. Teachers treat every student as college-bound.</p> 	<p><b>Goal</b></p> <p>Entire school community understands the <b>Reading=Access=Power=Freedom</b> equation and organizes to ensure every student becomes an avid reader documenting at least one hour a day of adult-supervised reading practice.</p> 	<p><b>Goal</b></p> <p>Schools take responsibility for teaching college-bound home habits to all families. These habits are made explicit and are required of all students.</p> 	<p><b>Goal</b></p> <p>Classroom teachers provide every student, regardless of background or current achievement level, with daily exemplary models of reading, writing, and thinking at grade level.</p> 
7	8	9	10	11	12
Data Dashboards Track Student Growth	Differentiated Support for Individual Students	Strategic Interventions	Instructional Design Built on the 3 Shifts of Common Core State Standards	Effective Professional Learning Communities	Operating System Alignment
<p><b>Goal</b></p> <p>Educators use data to confront unconscious assumptions about their own effectiveness and biases around who can and can't learn and how quickly.</p> 	<p><b>Goal</b></p> <p>Every student has a personal learning plan. Plans include both social and academic supports as necessary.</p> 	<p><b>Goal</b></p> <p>Educators use real-time student achievement data to determine which current institutional practices to keep, alter, or abandon, maintaining only those practices that demonstrate a direct effect on accelerated student growth.</p> 	<p><b>Goal</b></p> <p>Curriculum is multicultural, multisource, and multiperspective, integrating the history of underrepresented groups into all units. Instructional practices build student agency and college-ready literacy skills.</p> 	<p><b>Goal</b></p> <p>PLCs hold all members accountable for the success of all students, regardless of classroom assignment.</p> 	<p><b>Goal</b></p> <p>100% of students are on track for college and career readiness.</p> 

Pre-K students must be immersed in books and learning how books work if they are going to be on-level when they start Kindergarten. We are excited to say that we will be implementing this new Reading

Program in Pre-K as well so parents will look for their Pre-K student to come home with books and book bags also. This program will ensure that every little one has had at least 1,000 books read to them during this crucial stage of learning so we are very excited about that!

The following is our Universal Expectations Guide for all literacy instruction Pre-K-6 at New York Mills Elementary:

**New York Mills List of Universal Expectations for the 2016-2017 School Year**

Yes	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Organized classroom</li> <li>-Engagement</li> <li>-Group reading</li> <li>-Teacher greeting and build positive relationships</li> <li>-Colorful</li> <li>-Lots of books – efficient classroom library</li> <li>-Inviting learning environment</li> <li>-Interactive/collaborative</li> <li>-Take a break and MOVE!</li> <li>-Incorporate reading and math skills in PE</li> <li>-Create spaces to help readers flourish</li> <li>-Provide CHOICE</li> <li>-Purposeful inferring of text as a whole group</li> <li>-Making connections</li> <li>-Guided reading – flexible groups</li> <li>-Teacher keeping running records</li> <li>-Staff development</li> <li>-Daily read aloud</li> <li>-Confer with students during independent reading time</li> <li>-Discuss, share and reflect good literature with teachers and students</li> <li>-Daily assessments provides purposeful teaching</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Boredom</li> <li>-Large classes</li> <li>-Unorganized</li> <li>-Shaming</li> <li>-Sitting all day</li> <li>-Worksheets</li> <li>-Dis-engaged</li> <li>-Overwhelmed</li> <li>-Isolated child</li> <li>-Follow through not done; “choppy” “scattered” ideas taught to fast</li> <li>-Rigid AR levels/choices</li> <li>-Pulling kids out of read-aloud</li> <li>-Pulling small groups during independent reading</li> </ul>

- New York Mills Elementary expects that all children will be taught at their own instructional level. Differentiation is the key to student growth. (Fountas and Pinnell, 2009).
- New York Mills Elementary will use a balanced literacy approach to teach the 2010 Minnesota English Language Arts Standards with the Common Core standards embedded. (Fountas and Pinnell, 1996).
- New York Mills Elementary will provide all students with the opportunity to read texts at their independent level and of their own choice every day. (Allington, 2012).
- New York Mills Elementary expects reading instruction to include the essential pillars of reading: Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Fluency, Vocabulary and Comprehension. (National Reading Panel, 2000).

- New York Mills Elementary expects reading instruction to span up to 90 minutes daily and contain a balance of large group, small group and/or individualized reading instruction. (Allington 2002). Core whole group instruction should span 20-30 minutes daily. Small group 1:1 instruction and independent reading will be approximately 60 minutes daily.
- New York Mills Elementary expects children to have writing instruction and writing practice every day for a minimum of 30 minutes. (Research on Writing 2012). In addition, all students will write to persuade, explain and convey experiences as outlined by the 2010 Minnesota English Language Arts Standards.
- New York Mills Elementary expects all students to read a variety of texts both fiction and non-fiction. (MN ELA Standards, 2010).
- Scientific, research-based literacy interventions for selected students will be provided in addition to core literacy instruction and will directly target student needs. (Buffum, Mattos & Weber, 2010).

In addition, our elementary has a Leveled Library in which numerous books are classified according to students' individual reading levels. Each classroom has their own reading center where students can enjoy books and other resources selected by their classroom teacher. On a daily basis, our teachers use relevant technology to engage our students in meaningful literacy activities. A variety of technologies have been integrated into the curriculum and instruction to meet the needs of the district's diverse learners.

In addition, we have committed to the following "must-haves" for our reading program this year:

#### MUST HAVES for American Reading Company

- Integrated Literacy daily non-negotiables in every classroom including:
  - Learning Target (I Can) Posted
  - Interactive Modelling/Mini Lesson (set the focus for the lesson) using any text that relates to Learning Target – teacher uses key questions and rubric – 20-30 minute
  - Guided Practice (Small Group) (Daily 5) – student applies Learning Target to Independent Reading – 30 minutes - teacher works with small groups
  - Independent Reading – teacher conferring – Student working on Power Goal - 30 minutes
  - Accountable Talk – 5-10 minutes
  - Read Aloud Pre-K-6 daily – at least 15 minutes (one step)
  - 30 Minutes of Reading at Home with follow-up by Literacy Coach Assistant or RTI paraprofessionals to get them caught up at school if "at home" doesn't work
  - Handwriting without Tears – grades Pre-2 – Cursive – 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade – 15 minutes daily
- Daily 5 – do all three every day:
  - Read to Self – working on Learning Target (I Can) of the day and Power Goal
  - Listen to Reading
  - Word Work – spelling (Everyday Spelling for grades 2-6), skill card work from their color level, phonics, sight words, vocabulary
  - Writing
  - Partner Reading
- Entering data every day into E-IRLA
- Logsheets every day

- 100% - all students on track for steps
- Ensure students progression and celebrate success
- Encourage open doors, teacher modelling and peer review
- Daily 5/CAFÉ menu on board
- I CANS posted
- Be using formative assessments to gauge student learning – thumbs up/down, learning mountain, scale of 1 to 5, red/green cards
- AIMSweb Benchmark for Reading – Grades K-6
- Effective PLCs – Pre-K-K, 1-2, 3-4, 5-6
  - Form for Norms
  - Structure for each time: 1 hour Step 11 Checklist
  - All PLCs meet in library including SPED, Jeff R. (who rotates between PLCs) Judith, Literacy Coach Assistant
  - 1 PLC brings the treats – rotate monthly
  - Bin exchange

### **Response to Intervention:**

At New York Mills Elementary we are committed to implementing a multi-tiered system of support for our students as follows:

The first level of support occurs in the classroom with 90 minutes of core instruction delivered by the classroom teacher using the district’s reading curriculum that is aligned with the 2010 English Language Arts Standards. Research-based reading instruction will address the 5 strands of reading (phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension). Teachers differentiate instruction in small groups, according to the needs of their diverse learners.

Based on screening and diagnostic assessments, the second level of support identifies students not meeting grade-level targets who are then provided supplemental reading interventions according to their skill deficit(s). This level of support will be provided by the classroom teachers on a daily basis and supplemental RTI trained paraprofessionals during a scheduled RTI time.

Students not responding well to the interventions provided at the second level receive the most intensive and individualized level of support outside of the 90 minutes of core instruction. Students receiving Special Education services are included at this level.

The Multi-tiered systems of support can be traced to the work on data-based decision making by Deno and Mirkin (1977) and the US Department of Education’s report *A Nation at Risk* (1983). The framework is a systematic use of assessment data to efficiently allocate resources to improve learning for all students (Burns and VanDerHeyden, 2006). A meta-analysis of research found that multi-tiered systems of support led to improved outcomes such as fewer children referred to and placed into special education programs. Additionally, results included higher achievement scores and reduced behavioral difficulties among all students (Burns, Appleton, and Stehouwer, 2005). Children at-risk for reading failure demonstrated improved reading skills (Marston, Muyskens, Lau, Canter, 2003; Tilly, 2003).

### **Assessment and Intervention:**

At New York Mills Elementary, we are committed to ensuring assessments administered assist us in providing instructional changes to best meet student needs.

All students are administered the AIMSweb screening/benchmarking assessment three times throughout the course of the year in fall, winter, and spring. Using this data, struggling and at-risk students are identified and referred for interventions. Specific interventions are based on these assessments and the interventions are implemented through the collaborative efforts of the classroom teacher and other specialists who meet weekly in grade level data team meetings. Each student's progress is monitored regularly and if the intervention selected is not working, another intervention is selected and implemented. Students not responding to these interventions are referred to the Student Assistance Team to determine further intervention or needs for special education services. Parents are kept informed of their child's progress at every step of the process. Parent/Teacher conferences are also held twice per year where teachers can update the parents during a face-to-face meeting.

AIMSweb is used as a screening/benchmark assessment. The target scores for each grade level are listed in the following charts:

**Kindergarten/First Grade AIMSweb Assessment Tests of Early Literacy:**

Fall	Winter	Spring
Assessment Name	Assessment Name	Assessment Name
Letter Sound Fluency (5)	Letter Sound Fluency (27)	Letter Sound Fluency (39)
1 -Nonsense Word Fluency (34)	1 -Nonsense Word Fluency (54)	1 -Nonsense Word Fluency (68)

AIMSweb® National Norms Table  
Reading - Curriculum Based Measurement

Grade	%ile	Fall		Winter		Spring		F
		Num	WRC	Num	WRC	Num	WRC	
1	90	350444	66	55158	100	55158	128	1.
	75		30		68		97	1.
	50		13		36		67	1.
	25		5		19		40	0.
	10		2		11		22	0.
	Mean		24		47		71	7.
	StdDev		29		36		40	0.
2	90	38282	115	38282	140	38282	156	1.
	75		88		115		131	1.
	50		62		88		106	1.
	25		35		64		82	1.
	10		17		39		59	1.
	Mean		64		90		106	7.
	StdDev		37		38		38	0.
3	90	40570	143	40570	162	40570	179	1.
	75		116		139		152	1.
	50		87		111		127	1.
	25		59		84		98	1.
	10		38		56		73	0.
	Mean		89		110		125	7.
	StdDev		40		41		42	0.

**Grades 1-3 AIMSweb Assessment Oral Reading Fluency:**

Based on these diagnostic assessments, instruction and interventions will be matched to the students' needs in one or more of the five pillars of reading (phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension).

**Parent Involvement:**

Following the assessment, parents will be informed of the results, supports, interventions and further diagnostic assessments during conferences. The results will be used to help their child meet the reading goals for their grade level. Parents will be invited to visit about their child's educational needs and ask

any questions they may have. A list of potential supports (websites) that the parent can access to assist the child in achieving grade-level proficiency will be provided.

Teachers make contact with the parents as needed throughout the year. Contact is made through phone calls, emails, and Report Cards, which are sent out 3 times per year. Conferences are held twice per year to engage with parents in a face-to-face meeting.

Parent Communication plan:

1. Assessment results will be provided to parents following AIMS-web assessments.
2. Parents of students who need supplemental instruction will be informed by the district that their student is receiving these services and invited in for a conference with the student's teacher.
3. Additional explanation of the literacy program and supports, if needed, will occur in October during fall parent/teacher conferences.
4. Parents of students receiving interventions will receive progress reports every 9 weeks.
5. All parents will receive a parent letter at least three times a year with suggestions on how to help strengthen their child's literacy skills.

Also, this year during Open House we will be offering several times for parents to come to the Auditorium and learn all about our new Reading Program, the American Reading Company and how they will play a critical role as their child's "Home Coach." Their children will arrive home every afternoon with 1-3 or more books that are a mix of classics and new titles hot off the press, which are part of a system designed for their achievement. Daily practice at home will help parents engage in their child's learning and ensures that every student adopts the independent reading routines of academically successful learners! Parents continued active participation in their student's education is the singular most critical factor in her/his achievement.

### **Professional Development:**

Quality teachers are the single greatest determinant of student achievement. In order to remain informed and up-to-date on new research on how children learn, emerging technology tools for the classroom, and new curriculum resources, providing opportunities for teachers to learn is essential. Professional Development opportunities in reading are provided to meet universal expectations identified earlier in the Local Literacy Plan. A variety of Professional Development experiences are provided through the school year with a hybrid of traditional PD days and after school hours. In addition, professional development opportunities are part of staff meetings and Professional Learning Communities. Staff members also participate in summer learning opportunities and conferences as mentioned above and others.

### **Curriculum and Instruction**

In the past years, New York Mills Elementary has identified the need for a balanced literacy approach to teaching reading in the elementary. This work is reflected in the New York Mills Elementary literacy expectations stated above. Through the implementation of the Literacy Expectations, New York Mills Elementary staff will be trained on and will be implementing the Daily 5 literacy framework as well as The American Reading Company program and small group reading instruction. Our preschool teachers have worked with their current Indicators of Progress and have participated in Professional Learning Communities to explore and discuss Kindergarten Standards. Based on this work as well as others, the

preschool staff has identified kindergarten ready expectations for those who will be beginning kindergarten.

### **English Learners**

At New York Mills Elementary we are in the process of understanding current EL learning trends and continuously identifying ways to meet the needs of these learners. An English Learner instructor will work to build opportunities for vocabulary acquisition, building of oral language and opportunities for students to be successful with reading and writing both inside and out of the traditional classroom setting.

### **Communication for Annual Reporting**

New York Mills Elementary shares annual reports in a variety of ways with stakeholders. The New York Mills Local Literacy Plan is posted on the New York Mills website. In addition, progress with literacy is reported in the World's Best Workforce plan also found on the New York Mills website.

### **Questions/Concerns About Local Literacy Report:**

If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Superintendent Blaine Novak at [bnovak@nymills.k12.mn.us](mailto:bnovak@nymills.k12.mn.us) or call the district office at 218-385-4201.