



English Language
Arts: what to
expect in our
classrooms

Regional Achievement
Centers meeting
December 17, 2012

Academic Year 2012-13

- ELA curriculum adopted by local BOE after June 2010 and before September 2012. for priority schools: the model curriculum.
- Implementation of K-12 ELA curriculum this academic year.
- Implementation of SS, Visual & Performing Arts, and World Languages curricula this academic year.

Curriculum

- Student Learning Objectives (What should students know and be able to do)
- Scope and Sequence
- Resources
- Technology
- Differentiation
- Intervention
- Assessment (screening, ongoing, end-of-unit, diagnostic)

What to Look For in Literacy Instruction...

- Structure
- Content
- Strategies
- Intervention
- Assessment

Structure

- Uninterrupted time devoted to literacy instruction (90-120 minutes)
- Whole group/small group/partner work
- Teacher as facilitator
- Independent work by students – based on meaningful, authentic tasks

Content

- Shifts in the Common Core State Standards demand time for
 - Reading in fiction and nonfiction texts
 - Evidence based questioning and response
 - Writing argument
 - Academic vocabulary
- Literacy instruction across curriculum – Social Studies, Science, et al.

Strategies

- Guided Reading
- Shared Reading
- Read Alouds – K-12
- Writing Conferences
- Project-Based Tasks
- Evidence-Based demonstration of knowledge

Assessment

- Screening
- Ongoing/Benchmark
- Diagnostic
- Summative

Intervention

- Assessment to determine intervention needed
- Interventions that are targeted and sustained
- Small group and one-on-one
- Never as a substitute for literacy block instruction

Differentiation

- English Language Learners
- Students with Disabilities
- Gifted and Talented Students
- All students

Resources

- Literature that reflects genre, multiculturalism, content area studies, gender, ethnicity, native language
- Textbooks – not as curriculum
- Technology – software programs that provide instruction and data on performance
- Websites
- Primary sources
- The world-at-large (digital media, global news, legislative issues, community issues)

- Look at student work. Students should be
 - challenged without being frustrated
 - offered choices when demonstrating knowledge
 - engaged with their peers in producing collaborative projects that are authentic
- And the work should reflect these challenges and opportunities in the classroom.

Contact

Mary Jane Kurabinski
Director, Office of Literacy
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

mary-jane.kurabinski@doe.state.nj.us

609.633.1726