

School District U-46

Elementary Integrated Curriculum for the 2025-2026 School Year

Board of Education Presentation

Celia Banks, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Jackie Johnson, Coordinator of Literacy and Libraries

Jacob Vandemoortel, Coordinator of Social Studies and World Languages

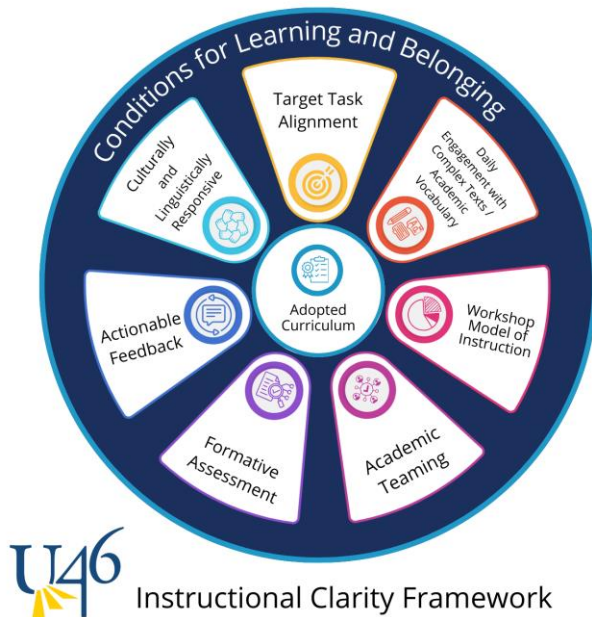
Angie Ernst, Coordinator of Multilingual and Multicultural Education

Patricia Makishima, Coordinator of Multilingual and Multicultural Education

May 5, 2025



Purpose



The purpose of this presentation is to recommend the adoption of updated elementary integrated units and resources for grades 1 through 5, incorporating additional social studies units in place of the former science units.

Alignment to Strategic Plan

U46 STRATEGIC PLAN AUG 2022 Revised



Student Success

It is our responsibility to ensure all students are engaged in rigorous learning, receive quality core instruction, and can develop the skills they need for better life chances and opportunities. By helping students develop self and peer agency, they will develop a growth mindset as they learn to expand their perspectives.

Effective & Engaged Staff

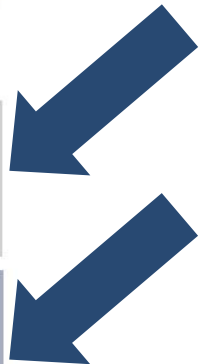
We will value, develop, recruit, and retain a forward-thinking, highly qualified, and diverse workforce. We will establish a robust process for measuring employee engagement to identify and proactively address employee engagement issues.

Culture, Climate & Community

We will engage in meaningful and effective relationships with our students, families and the greater community and will ensure that our schools are welcoming and inviting places for all of our U-46 students and families. We will become a choice district that inspires families to join us.

Excellence, Efficiency & Accountability

We will advocate for and utilize systems and resources that promote fiscal equity, operational excellence, efficiency and accountability. It is our moral imperative to change until all our systems measurably work for all students.



Rationale

Science is now a specials class.

The revised units focus on fostering a love of learning while building literacy, critical thinking, and character.

These units integrate reading, writing, and research, emphasizing deep engagement with complex texts, collaborative learning, and student-centered inquiry.

The ultimate goal is to equip students with the skills to think critically, express themselves confidently, and become responsible global citizens.

Elementary Task Force

Angelica Ernst, Coordinator Multilingual and Multicultural Education

Audrey Leaver, Hilltop Elementary, 6th grade Teacher

Celia Banks, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Danalea Warrick, Clinton Elementary, Instructional Coach

Dawn McCusker, Elementary Network Coach

Erin Hargadon, Sycamore Trails, 1st grade Teacher

Erin Jackle, Early Learning Instructional Coach

Griselda Pirtle, Director of Multilingual and Multicultural Education

Jacob Vandemoortel, Coordinator of Social Studies and World Languages

Jacquelyn Johnson, Coordinator of Literacy and Libraries

Jennifer Trygar, Liberty Elementary, Language Resource Teacher

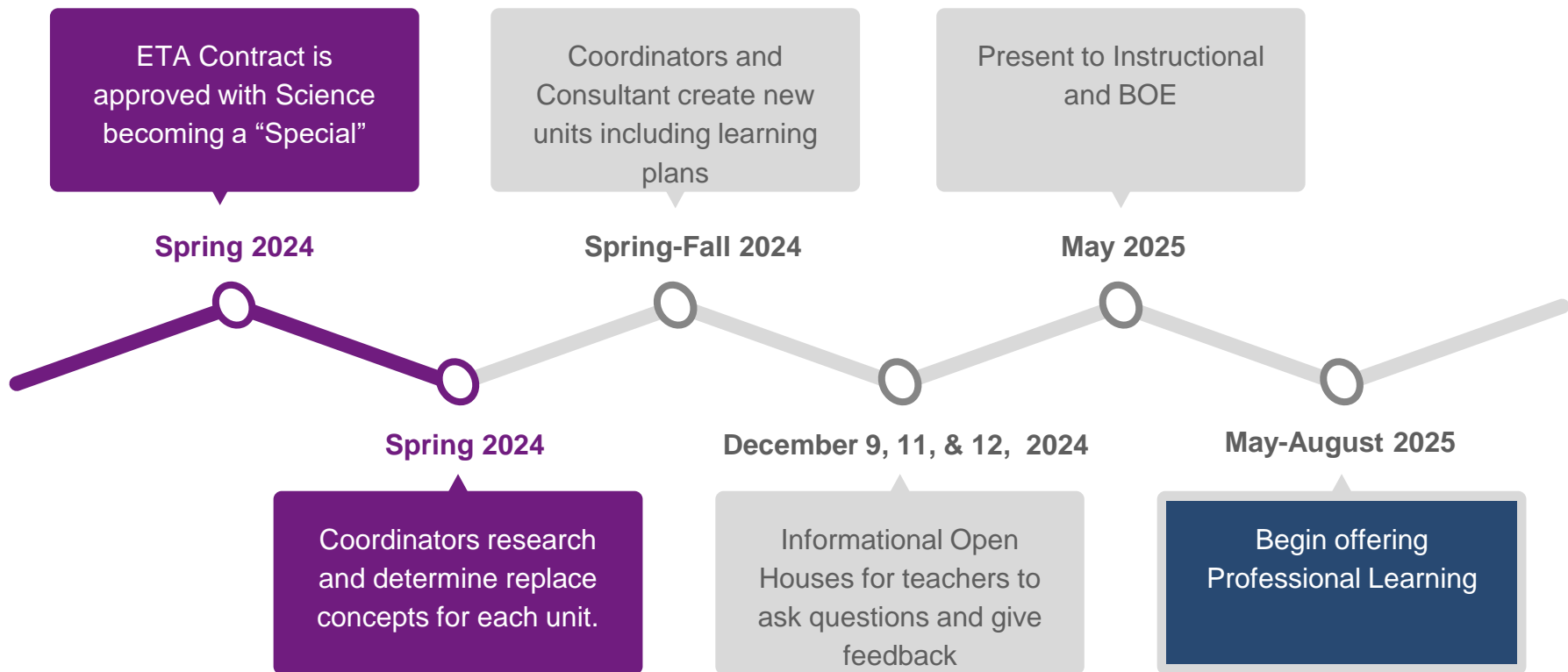
Karen Argueta, Huff Elementary, 3rd grade Dual Teacher

Patricia Makishima, Coordinator Multilingual and Multicultural Education

Scott Sternal, ETA Vice President

Strasser, Jennifer, Fox Meadow Elementary, 6th grade Teacher

Process



Standards



Civics

- Civic and Political Institutions
- Participation and Deliberation: Applying Civic Virtues and Democratic Principles
- Processes, Rules, and Laws



Geography

- Geographic Representations: Spatial Views of the World
- Human-Environment Interaction: Place, Regions, and Culture
- Human Population: Spatial Patterns and Movements
- Global Interconnections: Changing Spatial Patterns



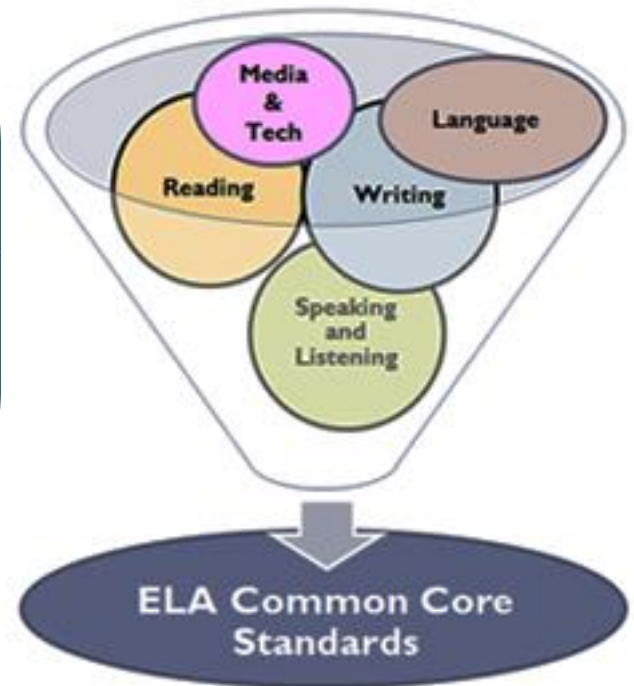
Economics and Financial Literacy

- Economic Decision Making
- Exchange and Markets
- The National and Global Economy



History

- Change, Continuity, and Context
- Perspectives
- Historical Sources and Evidence
- Causation and Argumentation



Proposed Changes

- New Units of Instruction including Common Assessments
- Foundational Literacy Instructional Guidance and Resources
- Common Text Readings
- Inclusion of Keyboarding
- Inclusion of Handwriting and Cursive

Integrated Curriculum Guiding Principles



→ Focus on Big Ideas and Essential Questions

- ◆ Frame units around open-ended, thought-provoking questions that encourage inquiry and exploration.
- ◆ Use authentic tasks and challenges that connect classroom learning to students' communities and the wider world.

→ Align with Standards

- ◆ Use backward design: Start with learning goals and desired outcomes, then plan lessons and activities.
- ◆ Incorporate activities that build collaboration, empathy, and communication skills.

→ Promote Interdisciplinary Connections

- ◆ Highlight natural overlaps between subjects
- ◆ Use real-world contexts to show how skills and knowledge across disciplines work together.

→ Foster Student-Centered Learning

- ◆ Build opportunities for choice, voice, and self-direction.
- ◆ Include project-based learning (PBL), experiments, collaborative group work, and virtual field trips.

Summary of New Units

Social Justice

Develops crucial life skills like empathy, critical thinking, and respect for diversity, allowing them to recognize and challenge bias and injustice.

History

Extend the exploration of key historical themes such as change, conflict, and citizenship, students learn critical thinking, develop empathy, and grasp cause-and-effect relationships.

Informational and Media Literacy

Enable students to understand, analyze, and synthesize facts from various sources, fostering problem-solving and research skills to prepare students to thrive in a knowledge-based society, empowering them to become informed, critical thinkers and responsible digital citizens.

Recommended Resources

- Foundational Literacy Resources
 - ◆ Handwriting without Tears for Kindergarten and First Grade
 - ◆ Magnetic Letter boards and letters for Kindergarten through Second Grades
 - ◆ UFLI for Kindergarten through Second Grades
- Cursive without Tears for Third Grade
- Keyboarding without Tears for Second through Fifth Grades
- Dual Language Specific Sound Spelling Transfer for Kindergarten through Second Grade Dual Language Classrooms
- Express! multilingual learners language proficiency for Kindergarten through Fifth Grades
- Patterns of Power to support syntax for Kindergarten through Fifth Grades

Recommended Resources

- Story of Our Towns
- Decodable Text Sets for grades K-5
- Class Text Sets for Inquiry Concepts and Themes
- Student Text (whole class)
- Book Club texts for GR 5

Implementation

Implement new integrated units for the 2025-2026 school year.

Provide informational launch sessions for teachers between March and May 2025.

Provide professional learning using Unit Internalization tools beginning May 2025.

Provide professional learning from Learning without Tears and Express! May 2025.

Professional Learning

Required	Available	Supports
LIVE	LIVE and Asynchronous	LIVE and Asynchronous
<p>Teachers will develop a foundational understanding of changes:</p> <p>Sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unpacking new curriculum frameworks• Practicing with new resources	<p>Teachers can:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Engage in supported planning.2. Plan to support all learners' access to grade-level content.3. Differentiated for new and experienced users.	<p>Canvas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Updated grade level courses→ Grade level blueprints with embedded resources <p>Coaching</p>

Cost

Item	# of Years of Access	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Express! (Student and Teacher) Benchmark Education Company	2	3,074 licenses	Varies	\$405,370.65
Trade Books - Follett Content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1-2 class text sets 3-5 Student copy of novel 	Print	12,525 books	Varies	\$144,152.20
Learning without Tears <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handwriting Cursive Keyboarding 	6	Varies	Varies	\$1,407,054.32
Power of Patterns - Zaner-Bloser	Print		Varies	\$249,666.75
The Story of Our Town - Elgin History Museum	2	1	\$56,500	\$56,500.00
Decodable Text Sets - Scholastic Education Solutions	Print	4 sets per site	Varies	\$619,828.50
TOTAL				\$2,882,573.42

Estimated Annual Cost of Consumables is \$149,070.00

Estimated Annual Per-Pupil Cost of Consumables Per Year \$12.37

