



## OFFICE OF ACADEMIC SERVICES

October 1, 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Virginia Literacy Act (VLA) was passed during the 2022 General Assembly to increase student literacy outcomes. The basic principles of the VLA are:

- **Every kindergarten to grade five student** will receive core literacy instruction based on scientifically based reading research and evidence-based teaching. If they do not meet literacy benchmarks, students in kindergarten through grade eight will also receive evidence-based supplemental instruction and intervention, as outlined in an individualized student reading plan.
- **Every family** will have access to online resources to support literacy development at home and will be able to participate in the development of their child's student reading plan.
- **Every teacher** will use evidence-based literacy curriculum, assess student learning using approved literacy screeners, use student-level data to inform instruction and intervention and participate in pre-service preparation and training on evidence-based literacy instruction.
- **Every reading specialist**, in consultation with classroom teachers, will coordinate and oversee interventions for students not meeting literacy benchmarks. The specialist will also develop and monitor student progress on reading plans, working closely with families and teachers.
- **Every division** will develop a literacy plan, ensure the use of evidence-based literacy curriculum, staff enough reading specialists to support intervention needs, and provide professional development to support teachers, reading specialists, and principals.

In Dinwiddie County Public Schools, every kindergarten to grade eight student receives core literacy instruction from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH), a Virginia Department of Education (VDOE)-approved resource. This resource is based on the science of reading and will challenge students to strengthen and enhance their literacy skills. It may take time for students to acclimate to this new method of reading instruction.

Our goal is to build strong readers and writers, understanding that literacy is the foundation of success in and beyond the classroom. Students with strong literacy skills are more likely to succeed academically, have better social development, and grow to become better critical thinkers and problem solvers. A solid literacy foundation opens doors for higher education and enhances future job prospects.

These resources will help to provide more detailed information: (To access links, please refer to the emailed version of this letter)

- [DCPS Literacy Plan](#)
- [DCPS Literacy Page](#)
- [Literacy Screening in Virginia](#)
- [VDOE 2024 English Standards](#)

Please feel free to contact the Academic Services Department or your child's principal with any questions. We appreciate your continued support as we work to create successful outcomes for all of our students.

Sincerely,

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Chief Academic Officer

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Director of Elementary Education

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Director of Secondary Education