



Reed Union School District Nurture - Teach - Inspire

District-wide Overarching Curriculum Criteria *English Language Arts*

Engagement & Integrated Design: Inspires curiosity through meaningful learning experiences that systematically connect ELA with Social Studies, Science, and other content areas.

Differentiation, Diversity, & Student Choice: Provides flexible pathways and projects representing diverse cultures and perspectives, allowing all students to stay challenged and access content.

Vertical Alignment: Skills develop consistently and progressively from grade to grade, with each year building on prior knowledge and increasing in complexity.

Rigor & Evidence-Based Best Practices: Promotes critical thinking through high-leverage instructional strategies aligned to standards and grounded in literacy best practices and the Science of Reading.

Flexibility: Supports teacher-led adjustments in pacing, content, and instructional strategies to meet students' evolving needs.

Writing & Effective Expression: Prioritizes comprehensive writing instruction - including narrative, informative, and argumentative forms - alongside oral communication and presentation skills.

Varied Assessments: Utilizes diverse tools - including formative, summative, and diagnostic - to monitor student skill development and knowledge growth over time (e.g., quick checks on fluency or comprehension).

Foundational & Advanced Skill Balance: Ensures a seamless and simultaneous progression where explicit foundational instruction builds the base for early and ongoing engagement with complex text analysis and knowledge-building.

Expanded Grade-Level Requirements

Level	Must-Haves (Non-Negotiables)	Deal-Breakers (Red Flags)
Elementary (PK-5)	● Explicit Foundational Skills: Systematic phonics and phonemic awareness ● Knowledge Building: Instruction integrating rich fiction/non-fiction with SS/Science. ● Handwriting: Embedded component for early grades.	● Scripted Teaching: Lessons that remove teacher autonomy. ● Lack of Decodables: Programs without high-interest, diverse decodable texts. ● Isolated Skills: Drills without connection to rich, meaningful content.
Middle School (6-8)	● Bilingual Offerings: Text offerings in multiple languages. ● Material Access: Both online (games/tests) and physical (workbooks) resources. ● Ease of Use: Seamless view between Student iPads and Teacher MacBooks.	● Formulaic Writing: Instruction that requires restrictive templates. ● Test-Prep Focus: Overemphasis on multiple choice at the expense of analysis. ● Rigid Pacing: Programs that don't respond to student data/needs.