

# Early Literacy Framework Presentation

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING

June 21, 2022

## Early Literacy



Literacy is more than just reading and writing. It's the foundation upon which we learn and grow.

Building literacy skills in children is one of the most effective ways to ensure they can achieve their full potential in school and throughout life.

Literacy opens doors to understanding, empathy, critical thinking, and the capacity for lifelong learning.

[childrensliteracy.ca](http://childrensliteracy.ca)

# What the DATA says...



One million Canadian children under the age of 15 are estimated to have below grade-level literacy skills. That is about one in eight kids. And the percentage of 15-year-olds with the lowest levels of literacy has increased over the past decade.

An Economic Overview of Children's Literacy in Canada (Deloitte)

27 per cent of kids start Grade 1 without some of the early developmental skills they need to be able to learn to read.

An Economic Overview of Children's Literacy in Canada (Deloitte)

"...students who can't read proficiently by fourth grade are four times more likely to drop out of high school and... dramatically increase the likelihood of criminal activity .

Readingpartners.org (2016)

**Recommendation:**

Ensure that appropriate teaching strategies, shown through rigorous, evidence-based research to be effective in developing strong literacy skills, are used in all Canadian classrooms.

National Strategy for Early Literacy

# How are we doing?



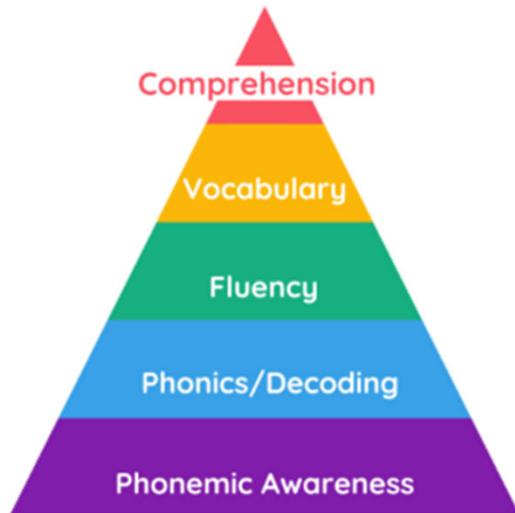
## Foundation Skills Assessment - Grade 4



### Grade 4 Report Card Data (English Language Arts)

June 2021 – 91% of all students in grade 4 were reported at or above grade level expectations

# The Development of Reading



## LITERACY AND THE BRAIN

Reading and writing are not innate – they are acquired skills for which the human brain is not yet fully evolved (Lieberman, Shankweiler, & Lieberman, 1989). Human brains are naturally wired to speak; they are not naturally wired to read and write. These skills need to be directly taught over several years.

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# Alignment and Coherence

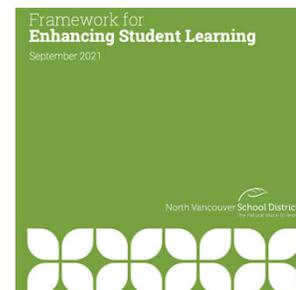


## Framework for Enhancing Student Learning

- Focus on improving and expanding literacy opportunities in all schools

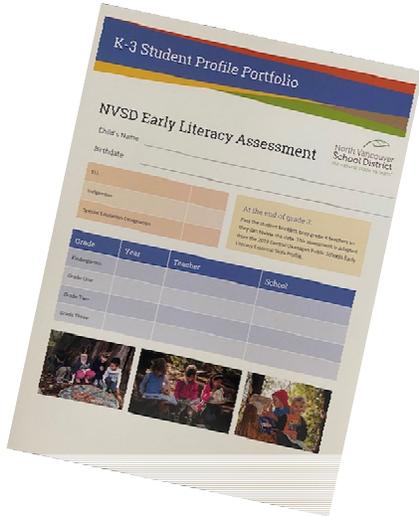
## Early Literacy Assessment Tool

- A comprehensive student assessment portfolio from Kindergarten to Grade 3
- Supports teachers and students to know where they are in the reading development process and guides instructional practice and intervention



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# Early Literacy Assessment



2021-2022 Implemented in Kindergarten in all Elementary Schools

2022-2023 Implementation in Grades 1-3 and Kindergarten French Immersion

# District Commitment to Early Literacy



## Teacher Leader / Early Learning Team

- Learning Services staff to support the early learning initiatives across the district from a universal, targeted and intensive lens

## Learning Services Collaboration

- Alignment of the district priority teams to support all student learning (eg Inclusive Ed, Indigenous Ed, Equity, SEL)

## Primary Instruction Network

- Opportunity for teachers to connect and learn from one another



# Teacher Leaders / Early Learning Team



## Universal supports

- Professional development for all

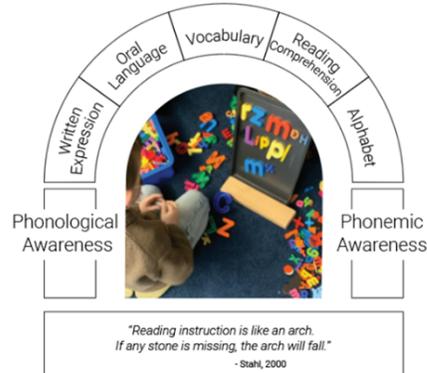
## Targeted Supports

- School and team support

## Intensive Supports

- Individual teacher support

### Early Literacy Development



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# Primary Instruction Network



## Intention

- Teachers collaborating with teachers

## Model

- FOS Lead teacher and Administrator Sponsor

## Success/Feedback

- Overwhelming positive experiences



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# NEXT STEPS

## Early Learning Team to provide ongoing support

- ELA roll out in English Grades 1-3 and French Immersion Kindergarten

## Collaboration with Other District Priority Areas

- Collaboration team of District Principals focused on Literacy K-12
- Indigenous District Literacy Support Teachers collaboration with Early Learning team

## Continued development of the Primary Instruction Network

- Building capacity of teachers across the district

## DATA - Self-assessment to all primary teachers

- Successes, areas of focus, how to support
- Important for district planning



# Questions

