ELA/Literacy Grade-Level Instructional Materials Evaluation Tool

Quality **Review**

GRADE K-1

WCSD 2018

Washoe County School District

Every Child, By Name And Face, To Graduation

Council of the Great City Schools

COMPONENT 1: TEXT COMPLEXITY

Assessing text complexity in kindergarten and grade one is more a qualitative than quantitative process. The guiding statements provided in this section will examine text complexity in order to differentiate quality and richness among the texts—particularly anchor texts—WCSD is considering for adoption. Anchor texts are materials designed to serve as the central unifying tool for the development of reading comprehension. While evaluations of text complexity formally begin with grade two, student reading materials, texts, and other materials in kindergarten and grade one need to create the conditions for rich and robust discussion and writing for ALL students (struggling readers, students with identified academic disabilities, English Learners, students who are performing at grade level, and advanced students).

GUIDING STATEMENTS	SPECIFIC EVIDENCE FROM THE TEXT/MATERIALS	EVIDENCE RATING
Literature and Informational Text C1a. The texts present rich and embedded relationships between and among characters, ideas, and concepts that are conveyed through masterful style and structure. (See exemplars in CCSS, Appendix B.)	Scholastic is the biggest producer of texts for schools and they have a wealth of texts to supply students. The texts are designed to read multiple times and convey a lesson/message across the unit.	○ 4) extensive ● 3) sufficient ○ 2) some ○ 1) weak
C1b. The materials consistently include short, challenging, and complete texts that contain rich content, ideas, and academic language worthy of close reading. (See exemplars in CCSS, Appendix B.)	Shared reading, interactive reading, guided reading texts are of rich and related content. Texts designed for students to read multiple times and lesson plans destined to carry students from understanding to extending.	○ 4) extensive ● 3) sufficient ○ 2) some ○ 1) weak

C1c. The materials consistently provide opportunities to read both literary and informational texts. For student reading materials in kindergarten and grade one, refer to the Alignment Criteria for Foundational Skills (4a-4d of this document).Read- aloud anchor texts should fall within or above the grades two through three text complexity band.	Mentor texts provided with each week. Lots of informational and literary texts available.	◉ 4) extensive ○ 3) sufficient ○ 2) some ○ 1) weak

OVERALL RATING: ○ 4) extensive evidence ◉ 3) sufficient evidence ○ 2) some evidence ○ 1) weak evidence

SUMMARY STATEMENT (Explain why the materials received this overall rating):
Lots of reading material at varied levels for students and all surrounding a topic or theme for building a knowledge base.

COMPONENT 2: QUESTIONS AND TASKS

At least 80% of all questions in the submission are high-quality text-dependent and text-specific questions. The overwhelming majority of these questions reference specific text and draw students' attention to the text they are reading. Text-dependent questions that address the kindergarten and grade one standards will be described in greater depth in Alignment Criterion II.

ALIGNMENT CRITERION I: RANGE AND QUALITY OF TEXTS

Materials must reflect a wide range of text types and genres, as required by the standards. In kindergarten and grade one, and across all other grade levels, there should be ample texts on topics that can support sustained study. Knowledge built at one grade level should be expanded in other grade levels. Topics should take into account individual student academic needs and interests in order to foster independent reading. It is also imperative that the included topics and themes are compelling enough to read multiple times and are aligned to district needs. Pay particular attention to the guidance provided in Appendix B of the Common Core State Standards.

GUIDING STATEMENTS	SPECIFIC EVIDENCE FROM THE TEXT/MATERIALS	EVIDENCE RATING
Literature and Informational Text 1a. The range of materials, both print and digital, allows teachers and students to explore content that coherently and systematically builds knowledge and vocabulary across subjects, themes, and topics. This applies especially to texts read aloud by the teacher, which should promote speaking and listening about topics under study in kindergarten and grade one. (See CCSS Appendix B for examples of grade-level knowledge demands.) Text sets also address a wide variety of student interests, and are likely to foster independent reading.	Shared reading and mentor texts designed to build knowledge, SEL component within each unit. Micro workshops surrounding the texts promote speaking and listening skills.	○ 4) extensive ● 3) sufficient ○ 2) some ○ 1) weak
1b. Text sets include a diverse range of high quality, culturally-responsive and appropriate topics and themes. Texts from diverse cultures reflect the same high-quality features that are demanded of all texts.	Not sure. Texts not provided.	○ 4) extensive ○ 3) sufficient ● 2) some ○ 1) weak

GUIDING STATEMENTS	SPECIFIC EVIDENCE FROM THE TEXT/MATERIALS	EVIDENCE RATING
1c. Materials include a rich and diverse sampling of literary texts, including poems and stories with relevant illustrations.	Of samples provided, the pictures look relevant and engaging but only 1 story on kinder level is available.	○ 4) extensive ○ 3) sufficient ● 2) some ○ 1) weak
1d. The range of informational texts include: • At least two selections on the same topic • Selections with various text features such as headings, tables of contents, glossaries, and illustrations	Materials say thematically aligned authentic fiction and non fiction literature but not outlined specific number and no text available to view text features.	○ 4) extensive ○ 3) sufficient ● 2) some ○ 1) weak
1e. Student reading materials contain a range of increasingly challenging selections that allow teachers to build students' ability to comprehend complex text and expand vocabulary throughout the school year.	The RFP says so...	○ 4) extensive ○ 3) sufficient ● 2) some ○ 1) weak

OVERALL RATING: ○ 4) extensive evidence ○ 3) sufficient evidence ● 2) some evidence ○ 1) weak evidence

SUMMARY STATEMENT (Explain why the materials received this overall rating):
Perhaps there is more evidence in the complete unit but by the samples provided, there is only some evidence. More examples are needed to know for sure.

ALIGNMENT CRITERION II. QUESTIONS AND TASKS SUPPORT STUDENT LEARNING

Questions posed to students in the materials under review should support student learning in building reading comprehension, in finding and producing the textual evidence to support responses, and in developing grade-level academic language. Texts for kindergarten and grade one students must include text-dependent questions that require the use of higher order thinking skills. There should be a range of questions that require students to attend to the author's language as his/her vehicle for conveying meaning, as well as to support specific inferences with explicit details from the text. Most questions should require that the student refer to the text in several places in order to devise an answer—rather than asking only literal, "right there" types of questions (CCSS).

GUIDING STATEMENTS	SPECIFIC EVIDENCE FROM THE TEXT/MATERIALS	EVIDENCE RATING
Literature and Informational Text 2a. Key Ideas and Details. Questions and tasks require students to explicitly attend to the text, including, but not limited to: • Asking and answering questions about key details in the text • Retelling familiar stories, including key details • Identifying and describing characters, settings, and major events in a story • Identifying the main topic of a text • Describing the connection between two individuals, events, or ideas in a text	Questions in unit 3 day 1: What does the author want me to know? What does the author already think I know? Unit 3 day 4: What subjects do the facts tell about? What do some of the pictures show?	○ 4) extensive ● 3) sufficient ○ 2) some ○ 1) weak
2b. Craft and Structure. Questions and tasks require students to explicitly attend to the text, including, but not limited to: • Determining the meanings of unknown words and phrases in stories, poems, and informational texts • Recognizing and explaining the differences between common types of text both literary (such as storybooks and poems) and informational • Naming the author and illustrator and describing their roles in telling the story or presenting ideas • Recognizing and using various features in informational texts (such as headings or glossaries) to locate information	Questions in unit 3 day 2: WHy do you think the author uses this phrase? What do these words tell you about how locust red pods move? What do you think you will red about on the next page?	○ 4) extensive ● 3) sufficient ○ 2) some ○ 1) weak

GUIDING STATEMENTS	SPECIFIC EVIDENCE FROM THE TEXT/MATERIALS	EVIDENCE RATING
2c. Integration of Knowledge and Ideas. Questions and tasks require students to explicitly attend to the text, including, but not limited to: • Comparing and contrasting the experiences of characters in stories • Describing the key ideas conveyed in illustrations • Identifying reasons authors give to support points and the similarities between two texts on the same topic	Questions from Unit 3 day 2: What place does this picture dhow? What kinds of seeds are found here? What animals moves seeds on this page?	○ 4) extensive ◉ 3) sufficient ○ 2) some ○ 1) weak

OVERALL RATING: ○ 4) extensive evidence ◉ 3) sufficient evidence ○ 2) some evidence ○ 1) weak evidence

SUMMARY STATEMENT (Explain why the materials received this overall rating):
Questions related to the text and students must use it to answer questions.

ALIGNMENT CRITERION III. WRITING TO SOURCES AND RESEARCH

The writing standards for each grade level highlight distinctive expectations about student writing. In kindergarten and grade one, students perform age-appropriate writing tasks and assignments with support and guidance from the teacher. For details on text types and purposes, production and distribution of writing, research to build and present knowledge, and the range of writing in kindergarten and grade one, see the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy. The metrics below show key characteristics to look for in your review of materials.

GUIDING STATEMENTS	SPECIFIC EVIDENCE FROM THE TEXT/MATERIALS	EVIDENCE RATING
3a. Writing assignments are explicitly connected to what students are reading, and materials a reorganized to elicit responses to sources in age-appropriate ways. This might include activities such as dictation or making pictures to express thoughts in addition to writing, with support from the teacher.	Assignment: Encourage children to think about "Flip, Float, Fly" as they complete these sentences: Maple seeds _____. _____ grow as round as globes. Raindrops can _____. Then have them write 3 sentences about things that flip folate or fly.	○ 4) extensive ● 3) sufficient ○ 2) some ○ 1) weak
3b. Text-dependent questions generally create the foundation for students to address culminating writing tasks, including: • Opinion writing, in which students introduce a topic or name a book, state an opinion, and supply a reason for the opinion (using a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing at the kindergarten level) • Informative/explanatory writing, in which students name a topic and supply facts about the topic (using a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing at the kindergarten level) • Narrative writing, in which students recount two or more appropriately sequenced events, including details about what happened (using a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing at the kindergarten level)	Unit 3 is clear that students are writing informative/explanatory	○ 4) extensive ● 3) sufficient ○ 2) some ○ 1) weak
3c. Reading materials can serve as models to explore writer's craft and support student production of grade-level opinion, informational, and narrative writing.	Have children begin gathering facts to answer the unit question: how do writers help you care about trees and plants?	○ 4) extensive ● 3) sufficient ○ 2) some ○ 1) weak

GUIDING STATEMENTS	SPECIFIC EVIDENCE FROM THE TEXT/MATERIALS	EVIDENCE RATING
3d. Materials include explicit support to teachers, either in the teacher's edition or classroom materials, for writing instruction linked to the kindergarten and grade one writing standards, including: • Focusing on a topic, responding to questions from peers, and adding details to strengthen writing as needed • Exploring and starting to use a variety of digital tools to produce and publish writing, including in collaboration with peers	Yes, writers workshop components in unit 3- writing together and revising.	○ 4) extensive ● 3) sufficient ○ 2) some ○ 1) weak
3e. Materials provide opportunities and resources for students to participate in shared research and writing projects, including: • Recalling information from experiences • Gathering information from provided sources	Have children being gather facts to answer the unit question; how do writers help you care about trees and plants?	○ 4) extensive ● 3) sufficient ○ 2) some ○ 1) weak

OVERALL RATING: ○ 4) extensive evidence ● 3) sufficient evidence ○ 2) some evidence ○ 1) weak evidence

SUMMARY STATEMENT (Explain why the materials received this overall rating):
Sufficient evidence provided in unit 3. If all units are this strong, extensive evidence would be an accurate rating.

ALIGNMENT CRITERION IV: FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS

Effective instruction on foundational skills in kindergarten and grade one includes explicit and systematic lessons and diagnostic support in concepts of print, the alphabetic principle, phonics, phonological awareness, vocabulary development and word recognition, syntax, and reading fluency. Students must be able to recognize and pronounce words fluently in order to focus on the major goal of reading, which is comprehension. Building these foundational skills must be contextualized within the materials.

GUIDING STATEMENTS	SPECIFIC EVIDENCE FROM THE TEXT/MATERIALS	EVIDENCE RATING
4a. Materials provide teachers with guidance and support for explicit and systematic instruction of the kindergarten and grade one *Reading Standards for Foundational Skills* (CCSS), including concepts of print, phonological awareness, letter recognition, phonics, word recognition, and reading fluency in a research-based and transparent progression. (Refer to CCSS Appendix A for the research detailing the advancement of foundational reading skills.)	Each week has phonics and word study, developing writing traits, daily writing/grammar and mechanics, strategies Also daily practice on digital literacy forum.	○ 4) extensive ● 3) sufficient ○ 2) some ○ 1) weak
4b. Materials include a variety of opportunities that allow for systematic and frequent practice of all foundational skills through such features as engaging texts, games, digital materials, etc.		○ 4) extensive ● 3) sufficient ○ 2) some ○ 1) weak

GUIDING STATEMENTS	SPECIFIC EVIDENCE FROM THE TEXT/MATERIALS	EVIDENCE RATING
4c. Materials provide regular practice in encoding (spelling) and decoding (reading) the sound symbol relationships of English.	Spelling Well lesson for each day on encoding and conventions. Decodable readers and practice available daily too.	○ 4) extensive ● 3) sufficient ○ 2) some ○ 1) weak
4d. Materials guide students in reading emergent reader texts for kindergarten and grade-level texts for grade one with purpose and understanding, making frequent connections between the acquisition of foundational skills and access to the meaning of texts (including a set of text-dependent or text-specific questions to check for understanding).		○ 4) extensive ● 3) sufficient ○ 2) some ○ 1) weak

OVERALL RATING: ○ 4) extensive evidence ● 3) sufficient evidence ○ 2) some evidence ○ 1) weak evidence

SUMMARY STATEMENT (Explain why the materials received this overall rating):
Foundational skills planned for daily. Attended to in whole and small group. Digital learning supports too.

ALIGNMENT CRITERION V: LANGUAGE

The Common Core State Standards for language focus on ensuring that students gain adequate mastery of a range of language skills and applications. Students are expected to meet each year's grade-specific standards and retain or further develop skills and knowledge (CCSS).

GUIDING STATEMENTS	SPECIFIC EVIDENCE FROM THE TEXT/MATERIALS	EVIDENCE RATING
Conventions of Standard English 5a. There is evidence that grade-level grammar and conventions are addressed using an integrated and contextualized approach in daily instruction. Materials and tasks in kindergarten and grade one are designed to help build student understanding and use of: • Upper- and lower-case letters • Question words • Recognition and use of end punctuation • Frequently occurring nouns in kindergarten, and common, proper, and possessive nouns by grade one • Frequently occurring verbs in kindergarten, and use of verbs to convey past, present, and future actions in grade one • Complete sentence in kindergarten, and compound declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory sentences in grade one • Capitalization of the first word in a sentence in kindergarten, and of dates and names of people in grade one • Correct spelling, by sounding out simple words phonetically in kindergarten and applying common spelling patterns to spell words in grade one Grade One • Regular plural nouns, with matching verbs • Personal, possessive, and indefinite pronouns • Conjunctions and determiners, such as articles or demonstratives • Frequently occurring adjectives	Evidence in unit 3 Conventions poster Sentences tell what doe one or something did "Temporary" spelling while figuring it out Discuss why spelling is important.	○ 4) extensive ● 3) sufficient ○ 2) some ○ 1) weak

GUIDING STATEMENTS	SPECIFIC EVIDENCE FROM THE TEXT/MATERIALS	EVIDENCE RATING
Vocabulary Acquisition and Use 5b. The materials provide context, support, and strategies for teaching vocabulary acquisition skills, including: • Identifying new meanings for familiar words in kindergarten • Using sentence-level context clues to unlock the meaning of words in grade one • Using frequently occurring inflections and affixes as clues to the meaning of words • Using root words (such as look) and their inflectional forms (looks, looked, looking) in grade one	Unit 3: Action words,	○ 4) extensive ○ 3) sufficient ● 2) some ○ 1) weak
5c. The materials provide embedded opportunities for students to encounter and develop an understanding of word relationships and nuances in word meanings.	Didn't see this in unit 3	○ 4) extensive ○ 3) sufficient ○ 2) some ● 1) weak

OVERALL RATING: ○ 4) extensive evidence ○ 3) sufficient evidence ● 2) some evidence ○ 1) weak evidence

SUMMARY STATEMENT (Explain why the materials received this overall rating):

ALIGNMENT CRITERION VI: SPEAKING AND LISTENING

To be CCSS-aligned, speaking and listening must be integrated into lessons, items, and tasks. These must reflect a progression of communication skills required for eventual college- and career-readiness, as outlined in the standards. If kindergarten and grade one students are able to listen to others, discuss what they are learning, and voice their own confusion or misunderstandings, their learning becomes deeper and more meaningful. They are exposed, at this level, to points of view that may differ from their own, and they learn how to agree and disagree, express their own thoughts, and ask questions when they don't understand or need more clarification.

GUIDING STATEMENTS	SPECIFIC EVIDENCE FROM THE TEXT/MATERIALS	EVIDENCE RATING
6a. *Comprehension and Collaboration.* Materials provide a frame that guides student participation in academic conversations by: • Agreeing on rules for discussion, taking turns speaking • Confirming understanding of texts read aloud • Asking and answering questions to clarify and gather information	Meta cognition has 2 lessons in unit 3 No notice of rules for discussion and turn taking, however, all lessons have oral/listening components.	○ 4) extensive ○ 3) sufficient ● 2) some ○ 1) weak
6b. *Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas.* Materials include tasks that promote oral responses in a range of collaborative discussions, and support students in: • Describing people, places, things, and events • Using visual displays to add details • Speaking audibly and completing sentences	Students work together to answer each unit's essential question through synthesis of texts. Additionally, writing assignments encourage brainstorming prior to writing and eliciting feedback after.	○ 4) extensive ● 3) sufficient ○ 2) some ○ 1) weak

OVERALL RATING: ○ 4) extensive evidence ● 3) sufficient evidence ○ 2) some evidence ○ 1) weak evidence

SUMMARY STATEMENT (Explain why the materials received this overall rating):
Each lesson has speaking and listening components. Students must work together to create essential understandings, brainstorm, and elicit feedback on writing.

ALIGNMENT CRITERION VII: SCAFFOLDING AND SUPPORTS

While scaffolds are not a part of the standards themselves, it is important to support teachers in meeting the needs of the range of students in their classrooms. In order to meet the reading, speaking, and writing needs of ***all*** *kindergarten and grade one students, the materials must include supports for students to apply concepts of print, phonics, vocabulary development, syntax, and fluency in comprehending texts. Supports and scaffolds should draw students back to the text and provide strategies for vocabulary acquisition. All scaffolding and supports require ongoing formal and informal assessments that provide multiple opportunities for students to demonstrate their proficiency and inform instruction.*

Scaffolding is not just intended for struggling students, but also for students who are ready for above grade- level work. As text complexity increases, and tasks get increasingly challenging, the need for appropriate scaffolds for above grade- level access is equally important.

GUIDING STATEMENTS	SPECIFIC EVIDENCE FROM THE TEXT/MATERIALS	EVIDENCE RATING
7a. The texts promote differentiated instruction and instructional conversations about text to support student learning of: • Academic language • Linguistic frames • Repeated grammatical structures and language	Supports for different levels and ELs outlined in teacher materials.	○ 4) extensive ● 3) sufficient ○ 2) some ○ 1) weak
7b. The materials include student supports such as: • Multiple digital and media versions of texts • Illustrations • Graphs and charts • Maps and photographs • Visual cues/notes that draw attention to words in the text that signal sequence or offer clues to meaning (such as where, when, and how key events occur)	Yes.	○ 4) extensive ● 3) sufficient ○ 2) some ○ 1) weak

GUIDING STATEMENTS	SPECIFIC EVIDENCE FROM THE TEXT/MATERIALS	EVIDENCE RATING
7c. The materials are designed to support teacher instruction by use of: • Explicit instructional directions accompanied by materials that are clearly aligned to stated goals and objectives and that build student ability to read and comprehend grade-level text • Strategies to gradually increase difficulty as students' skills strengthen • Strategies to support student acquisition of knowledge supporting specific common core standards • Clear and detailed teacher directions and guidance for introducing new concepts and skills • Clear guidance for documenting student progress toward meeting grade-level standards	Stated goals and objectives are not outlined nor are they connected to standards...the material says that online lesson planning materials have standards though.	○ 4) extensive ○ 3) sufficient ● 2) some ○ 1) weak
7d. The materials provide support for students with varying learning styles and modalities (i.e., there are provisions for print, digital, and other multimedia sources for information attainment).	Digital resources available.	○ 4) extensive ● 3) sufficient ○ 2) some ○ 1) weak
7e. The materials include developmentally appropriate materials and instructional sequences specifically designed for students in the primary grades (such as role-play, songs, games, etc.).	Could be more playfulness	○ 4) extensive ○ 3) sufficient ● 2) some ○ 1) weak

GUIDING STATEMENTS	SPECIFIC EVIDENCE FROM THE TEXT/MATERIALS	EVIDENCE RATING
7f. The materials include assessments along with: • Suggestions for next steps to address a spectrum of performance levels and needs based on assessment results • Opportunities for students to demonstrate their expertise through the use of performance tasks • Pieces of challenging and complete text that can be used to assess student understanding and next instructional steps • Reading selections and questions that progress in a logical sequence for gradual release[1] • Enrichment tasks for students who are on target for meeting grade-level expectations • Steps to take when evidence suggests that students are starting to fall behind	Assessments available online and teacher materials help get birds eye view of student performance.	○ 4) extensive ● 3) sufficient ○ 2) some ○ 1) weak

OVERALL RATING: ○ 4) extensive evidence ● 3) sufficient evidence ○ 2) some evidence ○ 1) weak evidence

SUMMARY STATEMENT (Explain why the materials received this overall rating):
Assessments available, differentiation outlined in teacher's materials, digital experiences for students to access independently.

Integration of Interdisciplinary Content Standards; Building Knowledge Systematically

THEMATIC	SPIRAL	NGSS	NVACSS	SEL	ELD
✔	☐	☐	✔	✔	☐

1. Gradual release: scaffolding of instruction so that students develop the ability to read and complete tasks and assignments independently and proficiently.