

Southern Avenue Charter Elementary School

Foundational Literacy Skills Plan

Last Updated: February 23, 2024

Approved: June 14, 2024

This Foundational Literacy Skills Plan has been approved by the Tennessee Department of Education and meets the requirements of the *Tennessee Literacy Success Act*. All portions of the Foundational Literacy Skills plan were submitted to the department and approved. To view the supplemental artifacts, please contact the district directly.

Daily Foundational Literacy Skills Instruction in Grades K-2

Our school uses a foundational skills curriculum which provides students with the necessary instruction in phonological/phonemic awareness, phonics, word recognition, fluency, comprehension, grammar, and writing. The skills provided are directly aligned with TN state standards. Southern Avenue Charter School will have a daily reading block for scholars in grade K-2 for foundational literacy and listening and language. The block will consist of 150 minutes for K-1, and 90 minutes for our 2nd graders. Within the reading instructional block, 60 minutes is devoted to foundational literacy in grades K-1, and 45 minutes in grade 2. K-1 Instructional time will consist of 15 minutes of explicit direct instruction in the following categories: phonics, phonological awareness, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. During the next 60 minutes, scholars will apply the skills in engaging center(s) and teacher-led small group instruction to address enrichment and reteach in phonics, phonological awareness & decoding, spelling, fluency, vocabulary & comprehension. During the last 30 minutes, K-1 will work on listening and learning. 2nd Grade's Instructional Foundational Literacy will follow the same block with the minutes adjusted, including, 45 minutes of Foundational Literacy with explicit instruction following the gradual release model (focusing on phonics, phonological awareness, fluency, and vocabulary & comprehension) and 45 minutes focusing on listening and learning with independent practice.

Daily Foundational Literacy Skills Instruction in Grades 3-5

Southern Avenue Charter Elementary School 3rd- 5th grade students will spend 30 minutes daily in foundational skills instruction embedded in the ELA block. Teachers and ELA interventionist will work with students focusing on aligned activities with the TN standards and including morphology, grammar, spelling, writing, and fluency. SACS students and teachers will be engaged in 15 minutes of spelling and morphology practices to continue enforcing decoding and spelling skills to improve reading and writing. During the 90-minute instructional ELA block, teachers will focus on ensuring students are exposed to reading, grammar, morphology, and writing. Students will have direct instruction, small group, and center activities to focus on specific language and decoding skills to

improve reading. During the ELA block, scholars will receive foundational literacy with a holistic approach with fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

Additional Information

Small group instruction that is tailored to meet the needs of students will be implemented daily. Teachers and academic coaches will collaborate to ensure all students receive quality, intensive instruction in standards-based deficit areas. SACS will purchase appropriate tables to ensure small group sessions flow effortlessly where the teacher can engage with students with minimal interruption. Teachers and academic coaches will receive PD and participate in weekly PLC meetings to strengthen instructional practices to ensure Tier 1 lesson delivery is meeting the needs of students. IReady and IXL computer-based programs will provide students and teachers with additional resources to differentiate learning. IReady diagnostic assessment will provide data for each scholar in the area of Reading, providing teachers and interventionists with a framework for small group instruction around state standards. Tier 2 Vocabulary Workshop Supplemental Materials for classroom instruction during whole group. Additional laptops will be purchased to allow all scholars the opportunity to have access to online computer remediation, intervention, and enrichment programs. Scholars will use school assigned digital devices (laptops or Chromebooks) to navigate online platforms. Interactive whiteboards will assist with student engagement in content areas providing another layer of instruction. Students will be provided additional resources as a result of RTI. Southern Avenue has invested in a RTI Coordinator to support in the fidelity of RTI across all grade levels for Tier 2 & Tier 3 literacy small group instruction. Academic coaches/educational assistants and teachers will provide students with in-school tutoring daily in a small group setting. Small groups will allow for targeted, specific standards that students are struggling to be mastered. Teachers will be required to submit plans on how their classes will be divided into small groups. Teachers will also be required to provide copies of activities that will be used and track the progress of each student individually and provide a weekly report to administration.

Approved Instructional Materials for Grades K-2

Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts (K-5)

Approved Instructional Materials for Grades 3-5

Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts (K-5)

Universal Reading Screener for Grades K-5

i-Ready Suite K-5

We also administer the Tennessee Universal Reading Screener (aimswebPlus) to students in third grade for the Spring Benchmark.

Intervention Structure and Supports

After completing the universal screener, in the Fall, data is reviewed by the RTI Coordinator to determine which students have a significant reading deficiency or are “at-risk”. Students who score between the 0-40th percentile are classified as in need of Tier II or Tier III small group intervention. Once placed, students participate in research based, small group and computer intervention daily to address the identified skill deficits for 30-45 minutes. Universal screeners are completed during the Fall, Winter, and Spring. We have research-based options for reading intervention support available to our students who are “at-risk” and/or who have been identified with a significant reading deficiency. Intervention programs are utilized with regards to the skill deficit and instructional level of the student. Progress is monitored for each student weekly for Tier 3 and bi-weekly for Tier 2 students. Data teams meet every 4 weeks to determine if a change in the intervention is needed (materials, intensity, duration). The data team also looks at other variables (attendance, engagement) as part of the decision-making process before a change is made to the programming, provider, or time of day. Intervention takes place daily during a time in the master schedule just for RTI. When students are in their RTI groups, they work on activities and assignments that align with their identified skill deficit and at the determined instructional level. All intervention structures and supports align with the requirements set forth in the RTI² Manual.

Parent Notification Plan/Home Literacy Reports

Southern Avenue's Parent Notification Plan will detail student scores in parent friendly language. It will provide parents an explanation of skill gaps and the depth and extent of student needs. It will detail the interventions in place for the student and how the interventions will address the learning gaps as well as dyslexia information and resources for students identified with characteristics of dyslexia. Parents will have knowledge and information on the importance of 3rd grade reading proficiency and 4th grade promotional pathways for students with achievement levels of "approaching" or "below" on the ELA portion of their student's TCAP test. Southern Avenue Charter School will communicate with all K-5 parents 3 times during the school year (after each fall, winter, and spring universal screener). There is information regarding no cost activities for families to support learning at home such as decodable readers from the state of TN, reading a book together, sounding out words, and discussing letter sounds to make the words.

Professional Development Plan

Teachers will participate in the free Reading 360 Early Literacy Training series developed by the Tennessee Department of Education. Participating staff will also include instructional facilitators. This training will emphasize practical classroom application of research findings around strong instruction in phonological awareness, phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, and vocabulary. We will include grade 3 through 5 for these Early Reading Trainings as well. New teachers to our school will also complete the Early Reading Training.

Teachers and interventionists will participate in ongoing professional development centered around foundational literacy skills throughout the upcoming school years with experienced providers who are trained in the implementation of curriculum and supplementary materials. Following the



completion of each training, teachers will be required to demonstrate knowledge and competency which will be observed during ongoing formal and informal classroom observations.