

Supporting Diverse Learners English Language Arts

The goal of English language arts (ELA) is for all students to read, understand, and express their understanding of complex, grade-level texts.

ELA instruction for students who persistently struggle should help students access the Tier 1 curriculum content by focusing on the following:

1. Read: Build reading skills, such as reading fluency, with texts used in core instruction.
2. Understand: Build understanding by focusing on background knowledge and language that is directly connected to the texts used in core instruction.
3. Express Understanding: Build oral and written language skills to express understanding clearly and coherently.

Read	
Build Foundational Skills	<i>Supports within the Curriculum (grades K - 5)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinforce foundational skills during reading.
	<i>Intervention (grades 3 - 5)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administer a screener from the Tier 1¹ K-2 foundational skills curriculum used in your district. Conduct lessons from the K-2 foundational skills curriculum based on results. Monitor student progress using the recommended screener from the curriculum.
Build Fluency	<i>Supports within the Curriculum (grades 2 - 12)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before reading, listen to the text read aloud and follow along with a printed version of the text. • Before reading, engage with a partner in a fluency practice protocol with fluency words and phrases. • While reading, engage in partner reading, choral reading, or echo reading.
	<i>Intervention (grades 2 - 12)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a weekly fluency practice passage from a text in the unit and/or a text related to the unit topic. • Conduct the supports from within the curriculum in a small-group setting.² • Conduct timed repeated readings with a passage from a text in the unit and/or a text related to the unit topic.

¹Visit the [Curricular Resources Annotated Reviews](#) to identify Tier 1 foundational skills curricula.

²Each curriculum has suggested supports. Guidebook supports can be found in the teaching notes or in the Additional Supports for Diverse Learners.

Understand	
Build Background Knowledge	<p><i>Supports within the Curriculum</i> (grades K - 12)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-3 weeks before the unit, have students read texts (can include videos) about the unit topic that are written in their home language or on their reading level.³ • Set up an accountable choice reading program with the curriculum; have students select their own texts to read related to the unit topic and respond to standards-aligned questions about the texts in writing.
	<p><i>Intervention</i> (grades K - 12)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct the supports from within the curriculum in a small-group setting. • As some students get teacher-led small-group instruction, other students can engage in choice reading.
Build Language Sense (Meaning)	<p><i>Supports within the Curriculum</i> (grades K - 12)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage in the mentor sentence protocol to make connections between structure and meaning. • Engage in a vocabulary protocol with words from unit texts.
	<p><i>Intervention</i> (grades K - 12)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct the supports from within the curriculum in a small-group setting.

Express Understanding	
Language Skills	<p><i>Supports within the Curriculum</i> (grades K - 12)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice and use conversation stems and teacher talk moves when engaging in conversation. • Engage in the mentor sentence protocol, identify the structure of mentor sentences, create sentence frames, and use the sentence frames to write about the text. • Use sentence frames and organization models as students write responses.⁴ • Show strong and weak examples of student writing and discuss what makes the strong examples strong and how to improve the weak examples. • Use the sentence strategies from The Writing Revolution.
	<p><i>Intervention</i> (grades K - 12)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct the supports from within the curriculum in a small-group setting.

³If ELA Guidebooks is the curriculum, use the “Let’s Set the Context” videos.

⁴If ELA Guidebooks is the curriculum, one possible organizational model is The Painted Essay™.