

Kim Slayton
Curriculum/State Testing
Report to the Public
2023-2024

Mr. Graham has asked me to give an update on the GT, Dyslexia and ESL programs.

Kristi Cox is our GT Coordinator teaches Kindergarten thru third grade GT enrichment lessons twice a month. She also provides services for 32 GT students at NES, coaches the NJHS Quiz Bowl and chess teams.

Holly Couch is our dyslexia specialist. The district has 106 students currently receiving services. The referral process and testing are currently underway for 5 additional students. The district has four paraprofessionals and one teacher who provides interventions either full-time or part-time.

Sarah Horn is our new ESL director. The district currently serves 277 English language learners. The district has five ESL paraprofessionals, 3 service primary, 1 elementary and 1 for junior and senior high. Our ESL students receive services in at least one of the following ways: pull out intervention, an aide pushing into the classroom, ELD class, ESL content embedded in our curriculums.

Curriculum changes under the LEARNS act:

Use High Quality Instructional Materials - LEARNS Act 237 of 2023 states that:

By the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year, any public school district that is using an ELA/literacy or mathematics curriculum program that is not from the state departments approved list shall notify all parents, legal guardians, and persons standing in writing on the district's website.

High Quality Instructional Material currently in use at NSD

HQIM - K-10 Illustrative Mathematics

HQIM- K-3 Foundations and Benchmark (phonics/literacy/writing)

HQIM- 4-6 Wonders (literacy/writing)

HQIM- 7-12 Study Sync (literacy/writing) being purchased this year

Science curriculum will need to be the districts next purchase, currently the state department has only approved one k-5 science curriculum, Amplify Science it meets expectation for alignment to standards but only partially meets for usability. For grades 6-8 Amplify and OpenSciEd meets both expectations. Grade 10 Biology has one curriculum

that meets both expectations, BSCS Biology: Understanding for Life. These are the only options we are allowed to purchase since the curriculum must come from the approved list provided by the state department.

New testing platform for grades 3-10th ATLAS- (Arkansas Teaching & learning Assessment) the testing team has 4 after school trainings the last two weeks of September to learn about the classroom assessments. Once we have been trained, we will then train our teachers and start using these assessments to drive instruction and interventions. Next year we will also add interim testing.

New this year for our teachers:

- New math standards k-12
- New literacy standards k-12
- Inclusion of special education students and teachers into the mainstream classroom k-9
- New phonics curriculum- Foundations 3rd
- New literacy curriculum- Benchmark k-3
- New 2020 version of Wonders literacy curriculum 4-6
- New state assessment-ATLAS- classroom assessments 3-10

With change comes training and professional development and this past summer our teachers and curriculum coaches have spent many hours learning new curriculum, aligning standards and making plans to utilize the new assessment platform to guide instructional techniques and strategies for this school year.