

Literacy curriculum review and adoption: choosing evidence-based materials

For school districts needing consultative support to select and adopt English Language Arts (ELA) curricular materials, Marzano Research can examine the evidence behind the programs you're considering and guide you through a facilitated inquiry process of collective learning, decision-making, and action. Our team members have expertise in literature reviews, group facilitation, system improvement, and consensus building. Marzano Research can contract with districts to provide practitioner-centered, evidence-informed research to ground your curriculum adoption process.

What to Expect from Curriculum Consultation

Curriculum adoptions typically take 6 to 12 months and are conducted by a committee made up of representatives from the school district. Marzano Research staff can support school districts through three phases of this process with multiple virtual and face-to-face meetings and the following activities:



Phase 1: Preparation and Initial Review

Introduce the selection committee to research and the criteria for choosing evidence-based ELA instructional programs. Identify district priorities, such as what is valued about existing materials and what could be improved with the new curriculum. If needed, Marzano Research will also support developing or revising the district literacy vision.



Phase 2: Curricular Material Review

Provide a summary of the evidence supporting the use of up to four sets of ELA curricular materials using ratings in What Works Clearinghouse, Evidence for ESSA, Results First Clearinghouse Database, Ohio's Evidence-Based Clearinghouse, and a Google Scholar search for the most current research. Assist the selection committee in using rubrics to analyze the summary and compare the relative strengths and weaknesses of the programs using a structured data analysis process.



Phase 3: Curricular Material Selection

Engage in a facilitated discussion about the strengths and weaknesses of each set of curricular materials, compare rubric ratings, and build consensus for final selection. Begin planning for communication, training, and other support for educators, preparing for successfully implementing the selected materials.

What you'll take away:

- **Evidence-based Curriculum Selection slide decks and handouts** from team meetings.
- **District-specific communication and training plan** outlining the next steps for successful implementation.
- **Resources such as facilitation protocols and consensus-building tools** used during the meetings.

To learn more, check out:

Marzano Research **Classroom Practice**

Contact Us

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