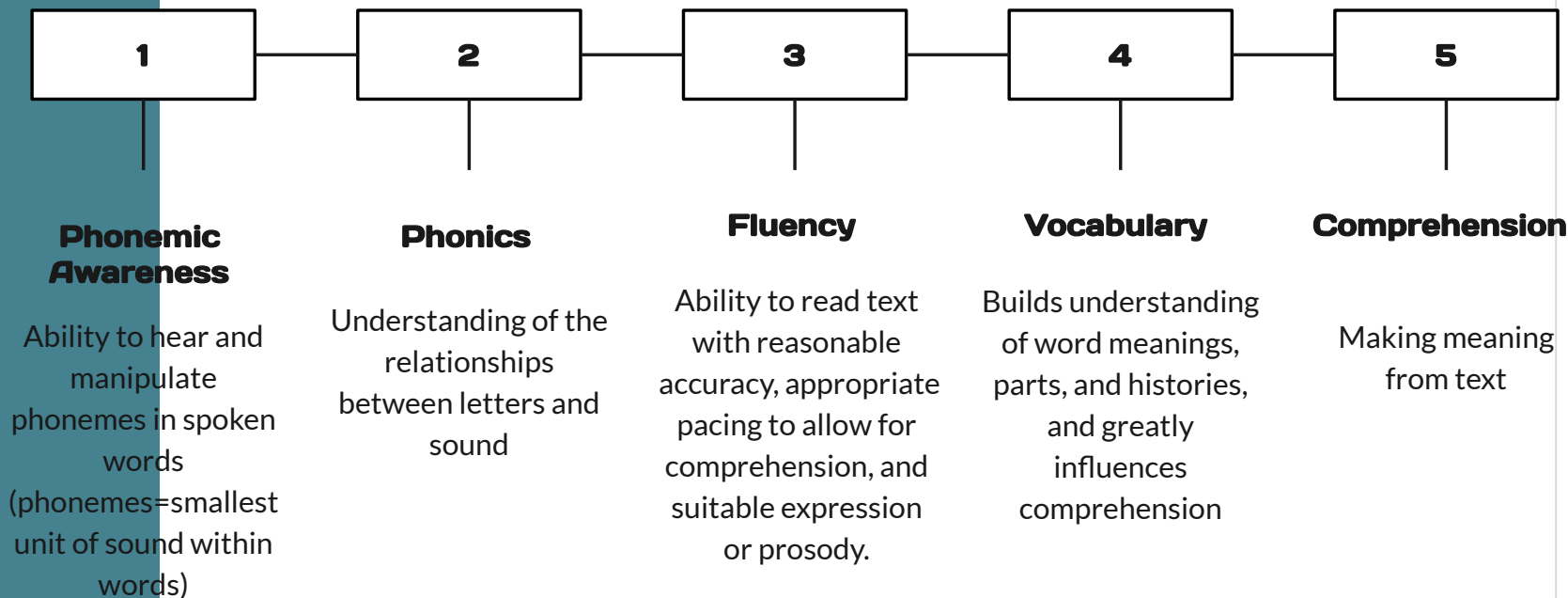

K-5 Literacy Skills Block – 95 Core

March 2026

Purpose

Inform the board of the district's process and strategic vision for adopting the 95 Core Phonics Program as the K–5 foundational literacy resource, ensuring alignment with state literacy requirements while building a cohesive, research-based system of early reading instruction that supports long-term student success.

Five Pillars of Literacy



Knowledge Block

Language Comprehension

BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE
(facts, concepts, etc.)

VOCABULARY
(breadth, precision, links, etc.)

LANGUAGE STRUCTURE
(syntax, semantics, etc.)

VERBAL REASONING
(inference, metaphor, etc.)

LITERACY KNOWLEDGE
(print concepts, genres, etc.)

Skills Block

Word Recognition

PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS
(syllables, phonemes, etc.)

DECODING
(alphabetic principle, spelling—sound correspondences)

SIGHT RECOGNITION
(of familiar words)

The Many Strands Woven into Skilled Reading

SCARBOROUGH'S READING ROPE (2001)*

INCREASINGLY STRATEGIC

INCREASINGLY AUTOMATIC

SKILLED READING

Fluent execution and coordination of word recognition and language comprehension.

Scarborough's Reading Rope helps to show the many reading skills that must be woven together across the two broad areas of Word Recognition and Language Comprehension.

*What is the Reading Rope? (n.d.). Braintrust Tutors. March 16, 2023
<https://braintrusttutors.com/what-is-the-reading-rope/>

Knowledge Block

Reading and Writing

2025-2026

2026-2027

90-120 Minutes

45-60 min- Reading
45-60 min. Writing

TIME

60 Minutes

Reading and Writing
together

Workshop: Mini lesson,
independent work time, small
groups and conferring

STRUCTURE

Module Lessons: Knowledge
building focuses on connected
reading and writing lessons.

- Units of Study in Reading and Writing
- Classroom libraries
- Decodable texts, book club sets, etc.

RESOURCES

- Arts & Letters
OR
- EL Education

Skills Block

Foundational Skills

2025-2026

30 Minutes

Phonics (K-2)
Word Study (3-5)

Direct explicit instruction- print concepts, phonemic awareness, structured phonics, morphology, and fluency.

Small Group instruction- assessment-based targeted differentiated instruction: embedded in workshop time.

- Units of Study in Phonics
- Heggerty
- Decodable texts, literacy footprints, curated book bins

TIME

STRUCTURE

RESOURCES

2026-2027

60 Minutes

Phonics/Word Study (30 min.)
"What I Need" (WIN) Time (30 min)

Direct explicit instruction- print concepts, phonemic awareness, structured phonics, morphology, and fluency.

"WIN" Time/ Small Group instruction- assessment-based targeted differentiated instruction: stand alone time in the day

- 95 Phonics
- Heggerty
- Decodable texts, literacy footprints, curated book bins



95 Phonics Core Program®

Phonics instruction is delivered through 95 Phonics Core Program, classroom-ready, evidence-based lessons for your ELA block. Through joyful, engaging instruction that requires minimal preparation, teachers can build critical phonics skills in just 30 minutes a day.

- Aligned to Michigan Literacy and Dyslexia Laws (Public Acts 146 & 147)
- Supports explicit, systematic instruction grounded in the Science of Reading
- Provides a consistent K–5 foundational skills pathway across all elementary schools
- Reduces variability in phonics instruction across classrooms and buildings
- Includes embedded assessment and progress monitoring to inform instruction
- Supports Tier 1 instruction while strengthening intervention alignment (Tier 2/3)
- Minimizes teacher preparation time with classroom-ready, structured lessons
- Includes professional learning and coaching to support implementation fidelity

Research Aligned Literacy Work

2020-2021

Professional Learning and Phonics Curriculum

- Phonics curriculum was adopted for grades K–2
- Homegrown Institute: small-group professional learning was implemented to build instructional capacity
- Literacy Labs aligned with evidence-based practices.

2024-2025

UoS and Decodables

Fall

- Updated Units of Study in Reading were adopted for grades K–2 to align with SOR practices.
- SOR aligned decodable texts purchased to enhance DK-5 classroom libraries

Summer

- Secured 35M grant to support literacy initiatives
- Literacy Team and Learning Services review vendor list
- 95 Core chosen to review & pilot

2025-2026

Curricular Programs Review

Fall

- Heggerty K–2
- K–5 pilot for 95 Phonics Core Program (35m)
- LST/TL structured literacy curriculum exploration and site visits

Winter

- LST/TL identify goals, review curriculum options, and confirm timeline
- Principal and leadership updates on structured literacy learning

March

- Core 95 K–5 training and Board presentation
- Curriculum pilot training
- District learning and data gathering

Spring

- Curriculum adoption decision
- Board presentation and curriculum approval

2026-2027

Core Curriculum Adoption

Fall

- Professional development during Welcome Back Week
- Administration and leadership training
- Launch learning labs for skills and knowledge blocks

Winter

- Collect student outcome data, gather feedback, and adjust professional development as needed
- Teacher learning labs continue

Spring

- Collect student outcome data, gather feedback, and adjust as needed
- Create the 2027–2028 professional learning and assessment calendar
- Balanced budget review

BHS Literacy Values (DRAFT)

- We believe all students deserve access to high-quality, diverse, and authentic texts that reflect their identities, expand their perspectives, and inspire a lifelong love of reading and learning.
- We value strong foundational literacy skills and commit to explicit, systematic instruction that ensures all students develop the decoding, language, and writing skills necessary for long-term success.
- We believe students learn best through active, meaningful engagement in thinking, talking, reading, and writing — with high expectations, equitable access, and responsive instruction across whole-class and small-group settings.
- We commit to cultivating students' identities, motivation, and self-efficacy so they see themselves as confident readers, writers, and learners who are active participants in their own growth.
- We believe strong home-school partnerships are essential to literacy success and intentionally support families in fostering literacy throughout their child's experience in our district.
- We value purposeful assessment and continuous professional learning — including diagnostics, progress monitoring, coaching, and learning labs — to strengthen teacher practice and ensure responsive, high-quality instruction for every student.

95 Core Adoption Memo

- Professional Learning and Implementation Plan
- Digital Teacher Tools
- Consumable materials for teachers and students
- Student workbooks and manipulatives
- Classroom kits and decodable texts
- Leadership training

**2025–2030 Adoption
\$423,554.80**

**Fully funded through MDE Section 35m
grant.**