

ELA Department

K - 12 Curriculum Review
2025 - 2030

ELA Review Team



High School Department Co-Chairs: Carole Lee Deemer and Mandy Laubach

Middle School Department Chair: Corina Balliet

Elementary School Department Chair: Christina Crews

Assistant to the Superintendent for Educational Services: Dr. Michael Donnelly

Input from all elementary teachers and secondary ELA teachers

Progress Review



A look at the previous 5 - year plan (2019-2024)

- Text Dependent Analysis training (K - 8) and increased implementation with students
- Elementary developed a “one-stop-shop” to support teachers by updating and including tools and information in one location for all things ELA
- Online instructional opportunities for students increased at the secondary level, in part due to the global pandemic
- Researched, reviewed & re-evaluated current best practices in writing education through ongoing work in the area of the Science of Reading and Writing to inform our next steps in developing a writing curriculum

MISSION



The Palisades English/Language Arts department's mission is to inspire students to be active readers in autonomous settings, to communicate effectively using the written and spoken word for a variety of purposes and audiences, and to critically evaluate all media in a global society.

Current Program

Highlights

Elementary-

- Our elementary schools recently adopted a new core RELA program, CKLA. We are in year “0” of implementation with a focus on training and developing a Professional Learning Community (PLC) to guide the direction of our learning through a feedback loop process.

PALMS-

- We increased online instructional opportunities for students in the areas of reading, writing, and grammar. We have been using Grammar Flip and Membean (vocabulary) regularly since 2020 and have recently begun to use Noodle Tools (works cited).
- The department received professional development and opportunities to collaborate with colleagues in areas related to best practices and technology integration (Close Reading, Canvas integration, AI)

Current Program

Highlights

High School-

- Implemented targeted curriculum and individual interventions based on data through our review of CDT and Keystone Data.
- Received professional development and collaborated with colleagues in areas related to student improvement, best practices, A.I., and technology integration.
- Increased online instructional opportunities for students in the areas of reading, writing, and grammar.
- Offered courses beyond core curriculum including: Two Advanced Placement courses -AP Language/Composition and AP Literature, Journalism, and Creative Writing.
- Implemented Career Education Pathway with two new elective offerings: Education Seminar and Effective Communications

Bucket #1



Curriculum Review

Measurable Goal

By the end of the five-year plan, all courses and levels will be reviewed and, when necessary, revisions will be made, including updated resources.

Bucket #2



Professional Learning Opportunities

Measurable Goal

By the end of the five-year plan, K-12 educators will receive professional development and opportunities to collaborate with colleagues in areas related to student improvement, best practices, and technology integration.

Bucket #3

Increased Student Achievement

Measurable Goal

Students will demonstrate growth, year over year, through their performance on a variety of assessments.

- MAP Data (K - 8)

- Curriculum-based assessments

- PSSA performance (3 - 8)

- Keystone performance (10 -11)

- Other assessments, as determined by the department

Bucket #4



Program Implementation

Measurable Goal

A successful implementation of programs at the elementary, middle school, and high school levels will be identified through both student performance data, as well as teacher/administrator perception data.

Next Steps...

Implement a new program for K - 5:

- Elementary is adopting a new RELA program, CKLA, in the 2025-2026 school year with a 5-year implementation review process.

Identify program(s) for 6 - 8:

- Middle school has begun exploring new programs to potentially implement in the 2026-2027 school year

Evaluate Planned Courses

- Explore new textbook series and update course offerings 9 - 12
- Evaluate and update courses