

Sustaining Educational Excellence for Wyoming Students

Wyoming K-5 Literacy Framework Project

Partnership Highlights

- ❖ Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) updated its literacy MTSS processes and documents.
- ❖ WDE updated its K-3 Literacy Guidance Framework and developed a Dyslexia Handbook.
- ❖ Arapahoe Elementary School co-developed a K-5 curriculum for narrative, informational, and opinion writing and participated in on-site professional development (PD) events with the Region 11 Comprehensive Center (R11CC) and the University of Wyoming Literacy Research Center and Clinic (UWLRCC).
- ❖ Wind River Elementary School co-developed and implemented a vocabulary framework during on-site professional development events with the R11CC and UWLRCC.
- ❖ The R11CC co-developed knowledge management sites to support literacy resources at pilot schools.

Pilot: Arapahoe Elementary School

Project focus: WRITING

After a needs assessment was completed in 2021, school educators participated annually in six on-site professional learning events, which modeled **evidence-based writing strategies** for classroom use. These sessions evolved into **collaborative planning meetings** with individual teachers, resulting in the creation of **lesson plans** and graphic organizers to enhance student writing. Additionally, a K-5 **writing curriculum** aligned with the Wyoming State Content Standards was co-developed, and individual teachers received coaching on **narrative, informational, and opinion writing**.

From continuous improvement exit surveys, **educators** shared positive feedback of the experience. For example:

"I plan to bring more writing into my classroom and use more reflection and organizers with multiple charts to give students a strategy to be successful in their writing."



Pilot: Wind River Elementary

Project focus: VOCABULARY

After a needs assessment was completed in 2022, six on-site professional learning events were conducted annually, modeling **evidence-based vocabulary strategies** for classroom use. These sessions featured a **schoolwide book study**, coordination of book **author visits**, and the development of a **comprehensive vocabulary framework** focused on vocabulary instruction. Strategies were modeled in the classroom, transitioning later to collaborative lesson planning. The team also **supported new staff** in designing effective vocabulary lessons using the vocabulary framework.

From continuous improvement exit surveys, **educators** shared positive feedback of the experience. For example:

"The long-term nature of this PD is great! Moving beyond a silo view of vocabulary to an integrated approach to comprehension seems like the next step."

Our Journey Forward

Wyoming Department of Education

- ❖ **Create** and **share** modules from the recordings of literacy PD, webinars, and training materials to be available to all districts and schools for training on the WDE website.
- ❖ **Advocate** for more funding for literacy.
- ❖ **Apply** for a grant to give districts another opportunity to fund literacy development.

The Pilot School Districts

- ❖ **Apply** for grants to fund literacy development.
- ❖ **Continue to change** the school culture to focus on student learning.
- ❖ **Wind River Elementary:** Include vocabulary training in their induction process for new teachers; continue to update the Vocabulary Framework; and focus on reading comprehension through a sustained reading program.
- ❖ **Arapahoe Elementary:** Follow the PD plan for professional learning community training, which includes development of subject area learning targets and assessments, and implement the writing curriculum.

Individual Teachers

- ❖ **Pursuing** master's degrees in literacy
- ❖ **Completing** LETRS training.
- ❖ **Ongoing professional development** and dedicated time for planning, based on exit tickets and listening sessions feedback.