

School Board
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Interim Superintendent
Van Ayres

August 2023

Dear Families,

The district's ELA department strives to provide and support a comprehensive core curriculum program to the teachers, students, and families of Hillsborough County Public Schools. The state approved, district-adopted core curriculum for 6-8 Language Arts and Reading is Florida StudySync McGraw Hill: <https://tinyurl.com/6-8McGrawHillTexts>. Prior to adoption, this curriculum underwent three reviews and vetting processes: the initial review to be placed on the state-approved list, the second review conducted by the district adoption committee followed by a vote from teachers, and the third review when the curriculum was made available to the public for 30 days following a School Board vote. Additionally, sample booklists were written into the Florida B.E.S.T. Standards for ELA and may be included as a part of instruction: <https://tinyurl.com/BESTELAbooklist>.

Because of the nature of literacy instruction, it is necessary for there to be inclusion of additional various texts to support students' understanding around key topics of study and to strengthen their overall comprehension skills in alignment with the state standards. These supplemental texts are diverse in nature and theme, span a variety of complexity, and promote rich discourse in the classroom setting. Below is a QR code that will take you to a list of supplemental texts by grade level that will be utilized during instruction throughout the year. This QR code can be scanned from your mobile device by opening the Camera App. Hold the device so that QR code appears in the camera, then tap the notification to open the link.



We are excited to share these titles with students this year in addition to their core texts. However, we understand there may be times when students and/or families have concerns about a text and request that the student not participate in the reading of such material. Please review these titles and determine if there are any that you wish your child to Opt-Out from reading. Note, an alternative text with aligned tasks and assignments will be provided. On the second page of this document, please list any of the texts you would not like your child to read. Sign and return the second page of this letter to your child's teacher only if you have listed titles from which to Opt-Out. If you have not listed any titles, you do not need to return the form.

Should you have any questions regarding the use of any of these texts, or about the adopted core curriculum, please feel free to contact me at (813) 272-4506 or Tracie Bergman, Executive Director of Literacy at (813) 272-4936.

Sincerely,

Mary Navarre, Supervisor, 6-8 Literacy

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6-8 ELA Supplemental Book Opt-Out Form

I have reviewed this overview of the 6-8 ELA text titles with my child. I am aware of the texts that will be used as part of the carefully planned instructional program, but I would prefer that my child not participate in the reading of the titles listed in the space below:

Please sign below and return to your child's teacher.

Parent Signature

Date

Student Name (Please Print)