



Alexandria City Public Schools

Area of Strategic Focus: K-4 Literacy Update

School Board Meeting
March 2, 2023



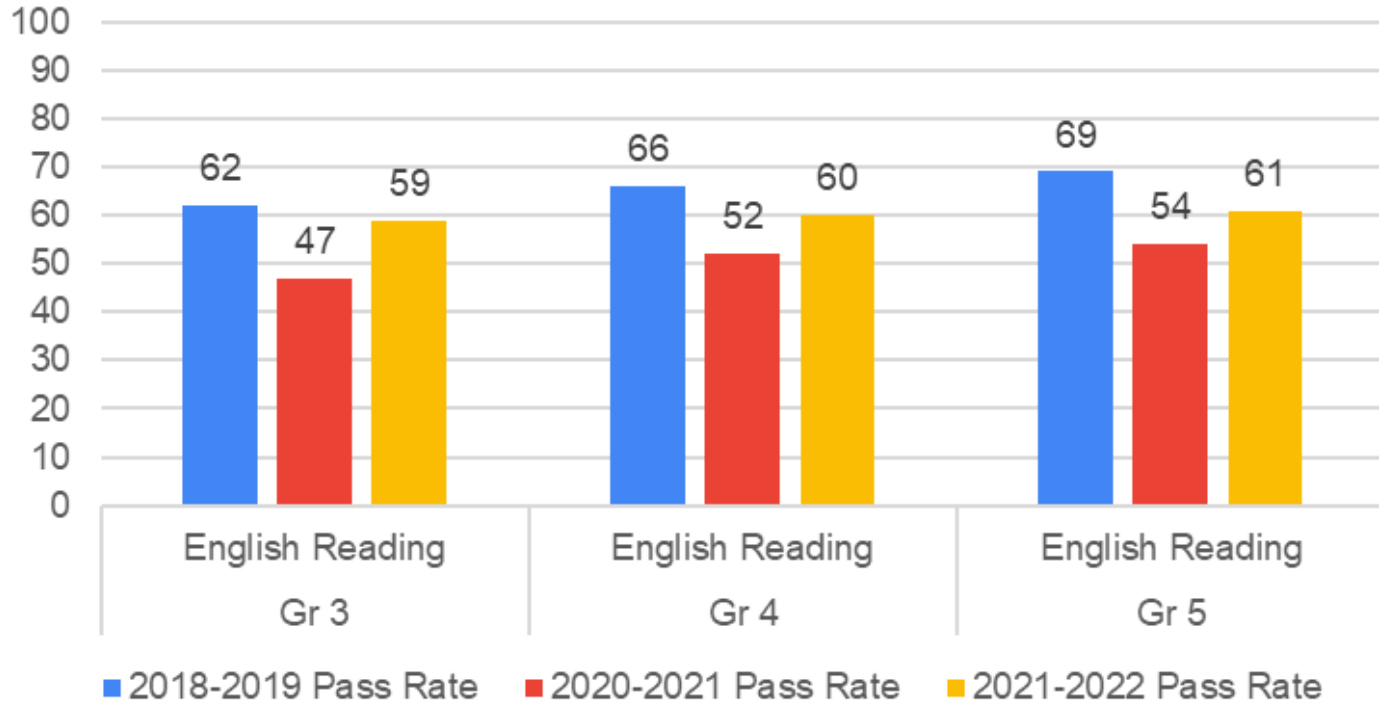


Essential Questions

1. What evidence-based improvement strategies have been implemented to improve ACPS elementary literacy instruction this year?
2. What is being learned to inform the division's next steps?
3. What are the implications of the Virginia Literacy Act (VLA) for ACPS's Grade K-4 Literacy work?

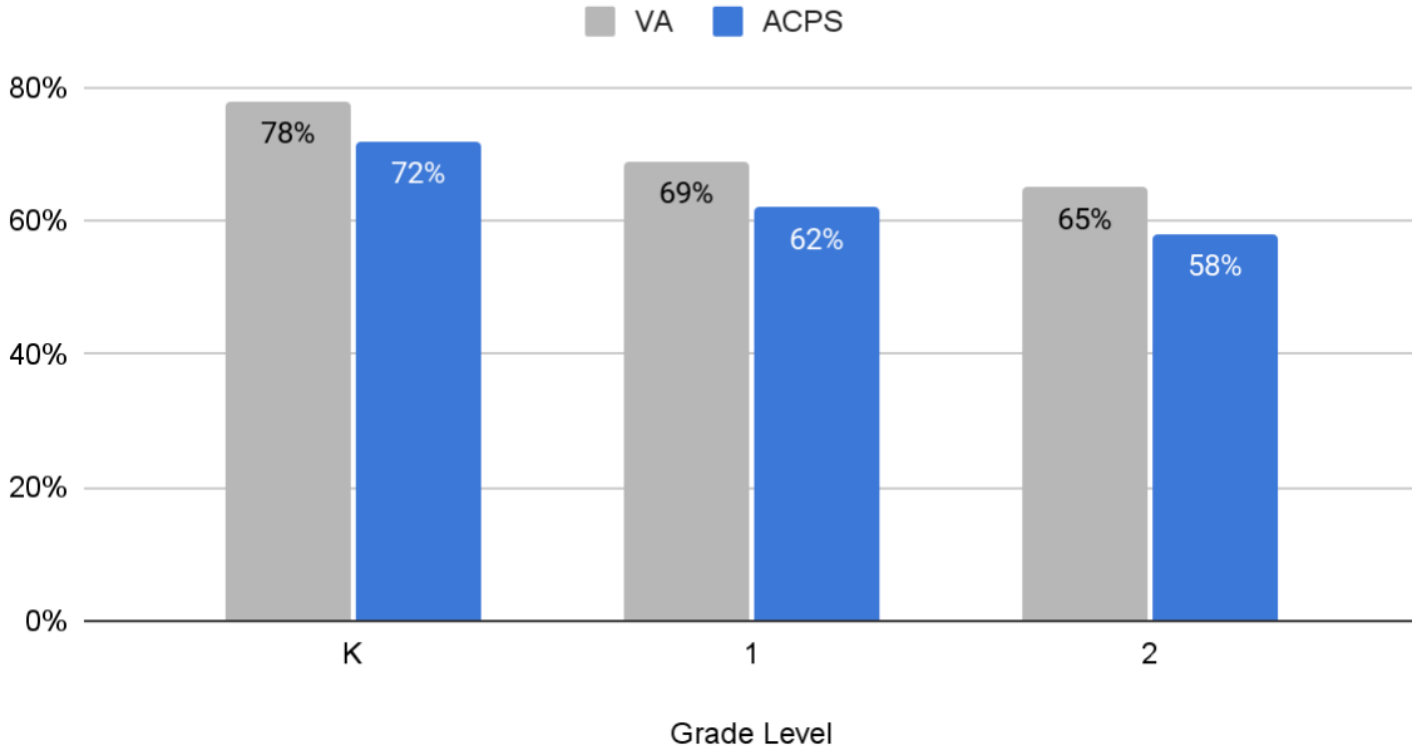


ACPS Reading Spring SOL Pass Rates



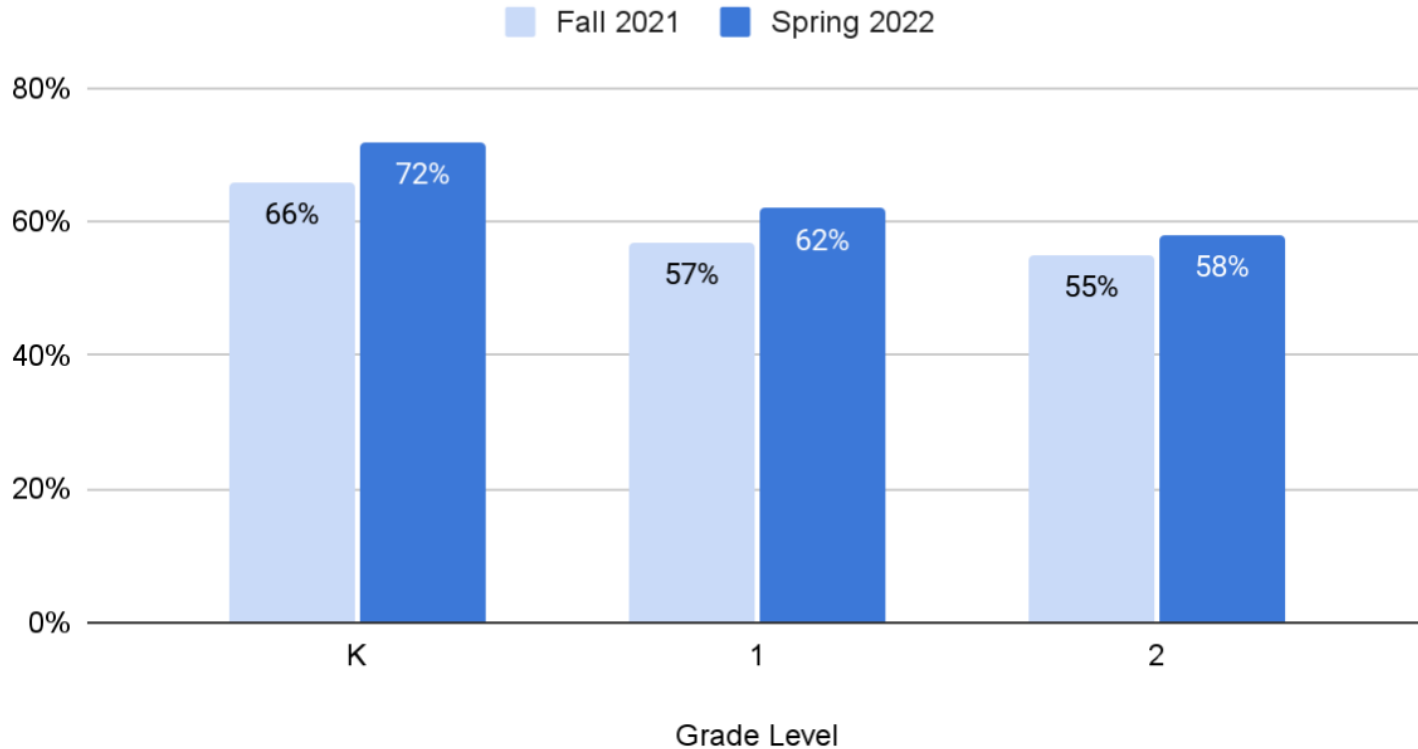


% of Students Meeting PALS Benchmark Spring 2022



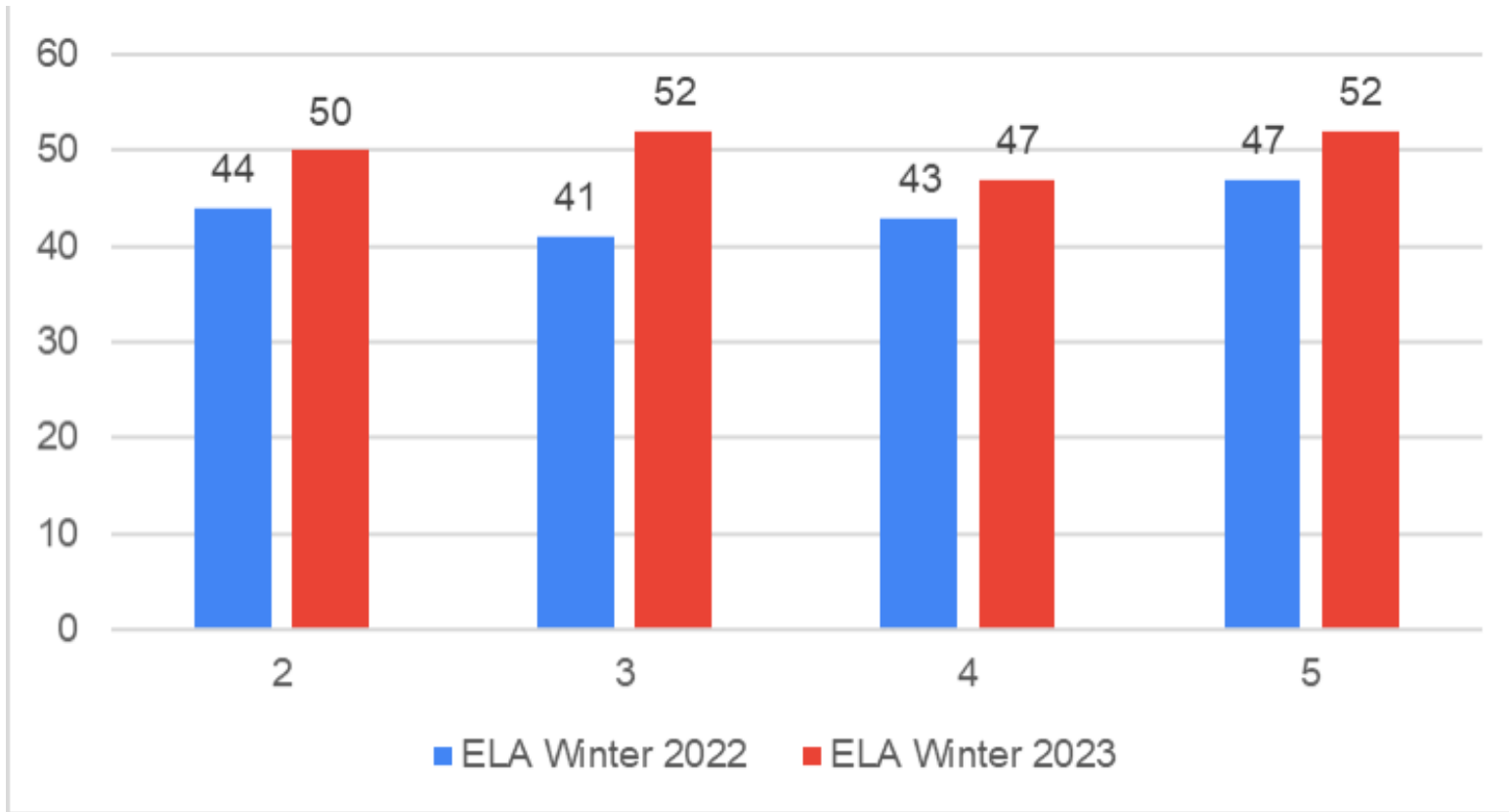


Percent of ACPS Students Meeting PALs Benchmark





% of Students Who Met Growth Projection From Fall-Winter NWEA MAP





Key Evidence-Based Elementary Literacy Improvement Strategies Implemented This Year

1. Sustained and strengthened implementation of *Really Great Reading* program to ensure **explicit and systematic phonics instruction** in all K-2 classrooms.
2. Initiated **Grade 3-5 pilot** of *Bookworms Reading and Writing* **evidence-based core resources** in 120 classrooms throughout 13 elementary schools.
3. Supported all K-5 ACPS teachers in shifting to **research-based assessment practices** to efficiently diagnose, progress-monitor, and provide targeted small group instruction to address students' individual literacy needs.



Really Great Reading: K-2 Phonics & Phonemic Awareness





ACPS Literacy

25 min.*

Writer's Workshop

45 min.

Core Reading Block

*Phonics/Word Study + Language
Comprehension*

45 min.

IET Workshop

*Differentiated Small-Group Intervention,
Enrichment, and Targeted Instruction*

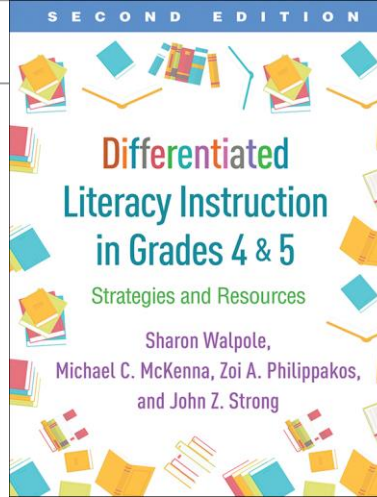
*Writing and reading should be extended across content areas for interdisciplinary literacy development wherever possible.



Bookworms

Differentiated Support

Vocabulary and Comprehension			
Students Read Silently			
Fluency and Comprehension			
With Multisyllabic Decoding		No Multisyllabic Decoding	
Word Recognition and Fluency			
Blends and Digraphs	R-Controlled Vowels	Vowel-Consonant-e	Vowel Teams
Phonological Awareness and Word Recognition			
Basic Alphabet Knowledge	Using Letter Sounds	Using Letter Patterns	



Tier 1



FIGURE 1.4. Skills progression in differentiation by assessed needs. From Walpole and McKenna (2017). Copyright © 2017 by The Guilford Press. Reprinted by permission.



Sample Small Group Differentiated Instruction Phonics Protocol: R-Controlled Vowels

8	turn	hunt	much	must
	run	such	burn	punt
	sun	hurt	shut	rub

I can sit in the sun. I get a sunburn. The sunburn can hurt me. I must rub it. It hurts so much. I cannot sit in the sun so much. A sunburn is bad.



Ongoing Professional Learning



Professional
Development Center
for Educators

Lexia



institute for
multi-sensory
education

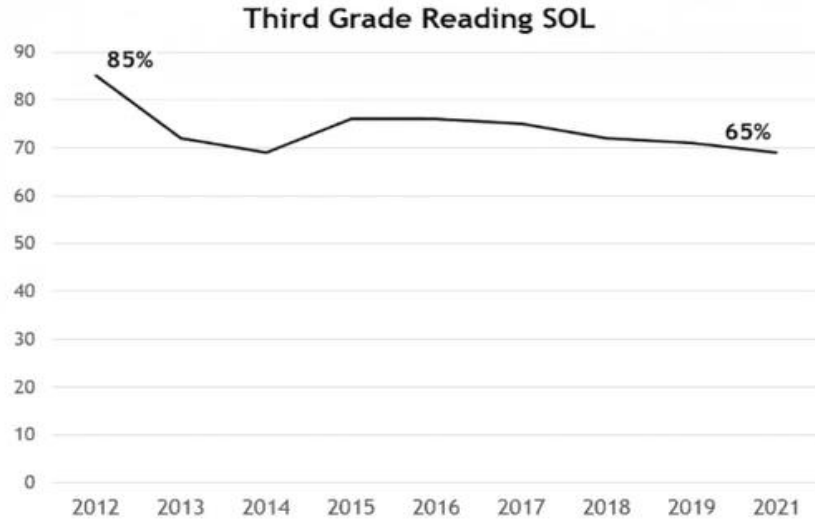
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Virginia Statewide Grade 3 Reading SOL Trends

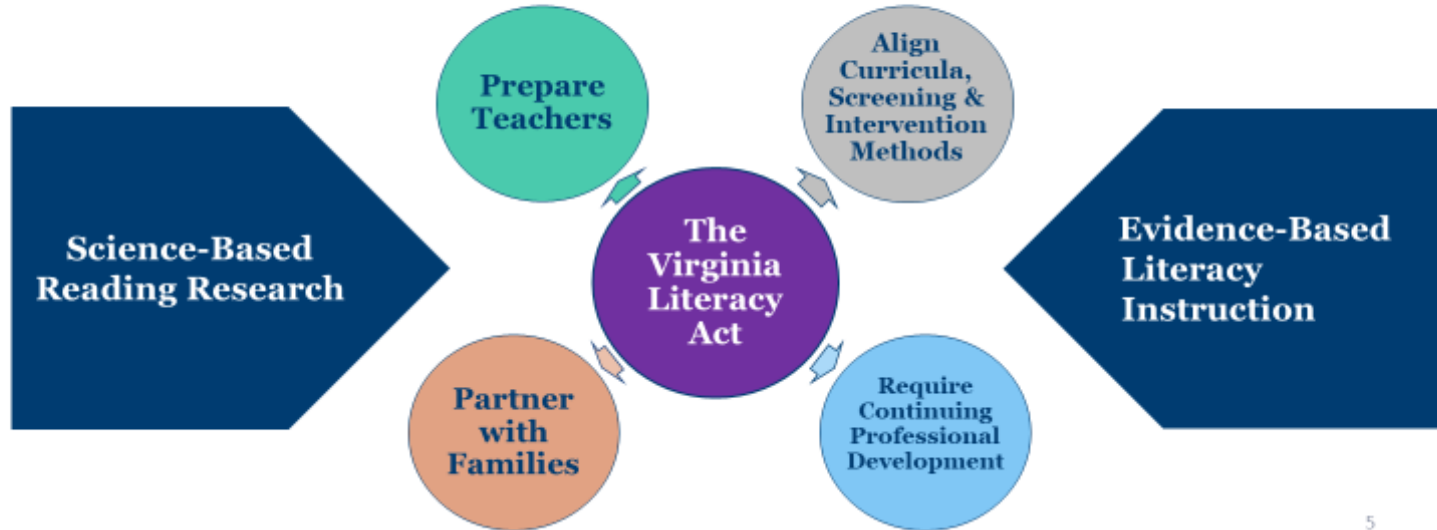
The third grade passage rate on the Reading SOL has continued to fall over the last decade and has dropped to historic lows during the pandemic.





How the VA Literacy Act Will Improve Literacy

Virginia is taking the lead nationwide to reverse these trends and improve early literacy outcomes for the Commonwealth's youngest learners.





Key Components of the Virginia Literacy Act

1. **Defines Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction and Science-Based Reading Instruction**
2. **Aligns Core Curricula, Screening, and Intervention Methods**
 - Requires core instructional, supplemental, and intervention resources in grades K-3 be aligned with science-based reading research, as set out in a division-wide literacy plan.





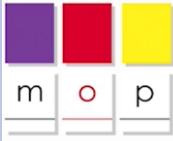
Key Components of the Virginia Literacy Act, cont.

- 3. Requires Professional Development for Reading Specialists, Teachers and Principals:** Adds a division-wide staffing ratio of one reading specialist per 550 students in K-3.
- 4. Partners with Families:** Ensures parents are engaged in student reading plans and have access to resources.
- 5. Aligns Educator Preparation and Licensure**

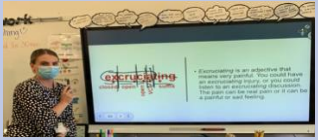




Next K-4 Literacy Steps in ACPS



Continue to strengthen and refine **foundational skill instruction** with *Really Great Reading* and research-based **small-group assessment protocols and practices**.



Sustain and expand pilot of **evidence-based literacy** resources and routines.



Enhance professional development to support leader capacity for providing **feedback** on **research-based literacy practices**



Support **teachers** with **ongoing professional learning** to assure “*implementation with integrity*” of resources in local ACPS context



ACPS Literacy Parent/Caregiver Canvas Site

Growing Readers & Writers



Explore resources and strategies to help your child's literacy skills bloom at home!

K-1

2

3-5

[Literacy Assessment Information](#)



Alexandria City Public Schools

Questions?

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