

Area of Strategic Focus: ACPS Literacy Update

**School Board Meeting
April 25, 2024**





Essential Questions

1. What have been ACPS' strategies to support **orientation** and **routine use** of new **evidence-based literacy resources and practices**?
2. What is being **learned** to inform the division's next steps?
3. What are the implications for moving to **refinement** and **integration** in use of new resources while transitioning to full enactment of the **Virginia Literacy Act**?



EMPOWERING

Virginia Literacy Act (VLA) Summary

1. **Programs/Resources:** “a program of literacy instruction that is **aligned with science-based reading research** and provides evidence-based literacy instruction to students in kindergarten through grade eight.”
2. **Reading Specialists Ratio:** One reading specialist per every 550 students division-wide in Grades K-5
3. **Student Reading Plan (SRP):** “Students will receive evidence-based instruction and intervention, as outlined in an individualized student reading plan, if they do not meet literacy benchmarks.”
4. **Division Literacy Plan (DLP):** “The division-wide comprehensive plan shall also include a division-wide literacy plan for pre-K through grade 8.”

2020-2025 Strategic Plan: Equity for All

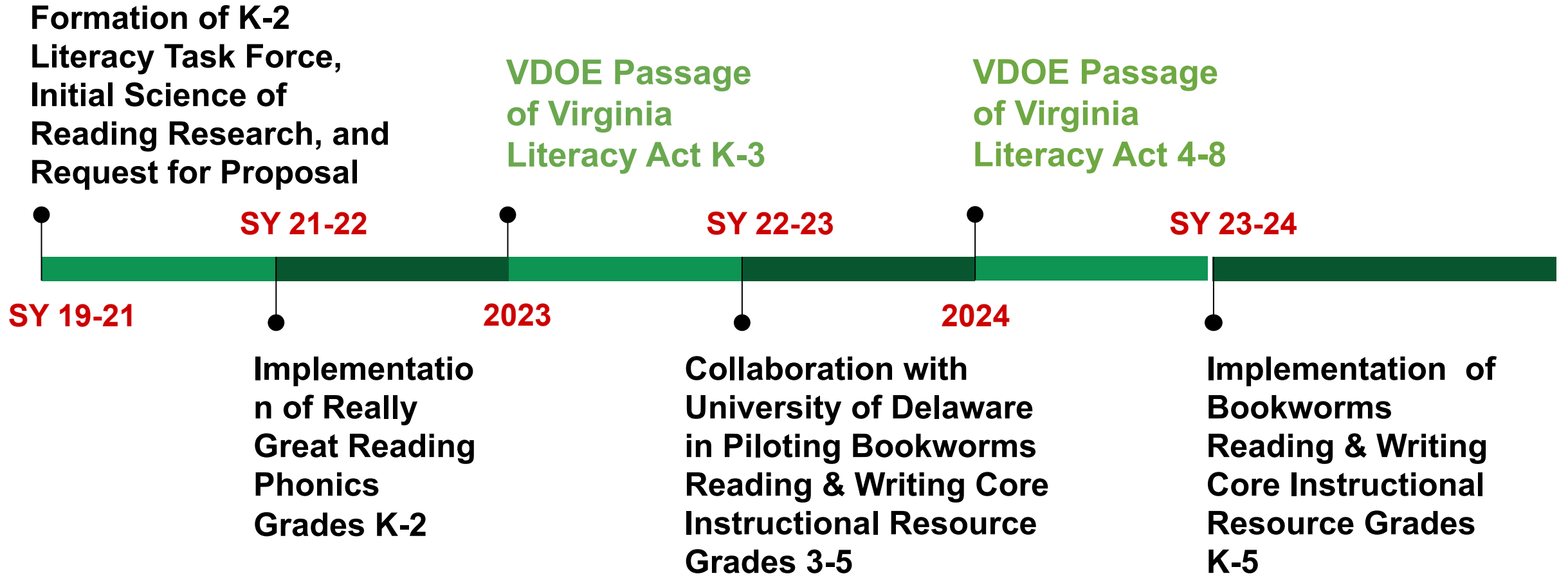
ACPS' Strategies to Support Orientation and Routine Use of New Evidence-Based Literacy Resources and Practices

School Year 2023-2024





ACPS' Literacy Strategic Focus Journey





1. Implementation of VDOE-Approved Science-Based Core Literacy Program in All Classrooms



- Bookworms Reading & Writing: Grades K-5
 - Research-based routines for daily engagement in complex, authentic grade-level texts





Implementation of VDOE-Approved Science-Based Core Literacy Program in All Classrooms (cont.)



- Really Great Reading: Grades K-2
 - Focused resource for phonological and phonemic awareness - foundational skills





2. In-School Coaching to Enhance Skilled Implementation

- Ongoing **curriculum-focused professional learning**
- Quarterly **in-school coaching visits** with the University of Delaware
- Building leader understanding & **feedback capacity** through walkthroughs





3. Collaboration Across Offices in Support of all ACPS' Diverse Learners



- Developed an ongoing division-wide PLC meetings with **specialists across offices** (English Learners, Students With Disabilities, etc.) supporting readers with diverse needs in accessing complex grade-level texts
- ACPS have been awarded a **grant from Really Great Reading** to expand differentiated support offerings next year, which was a collaborative effort with the Offices of Instructional Support and English Learner Services

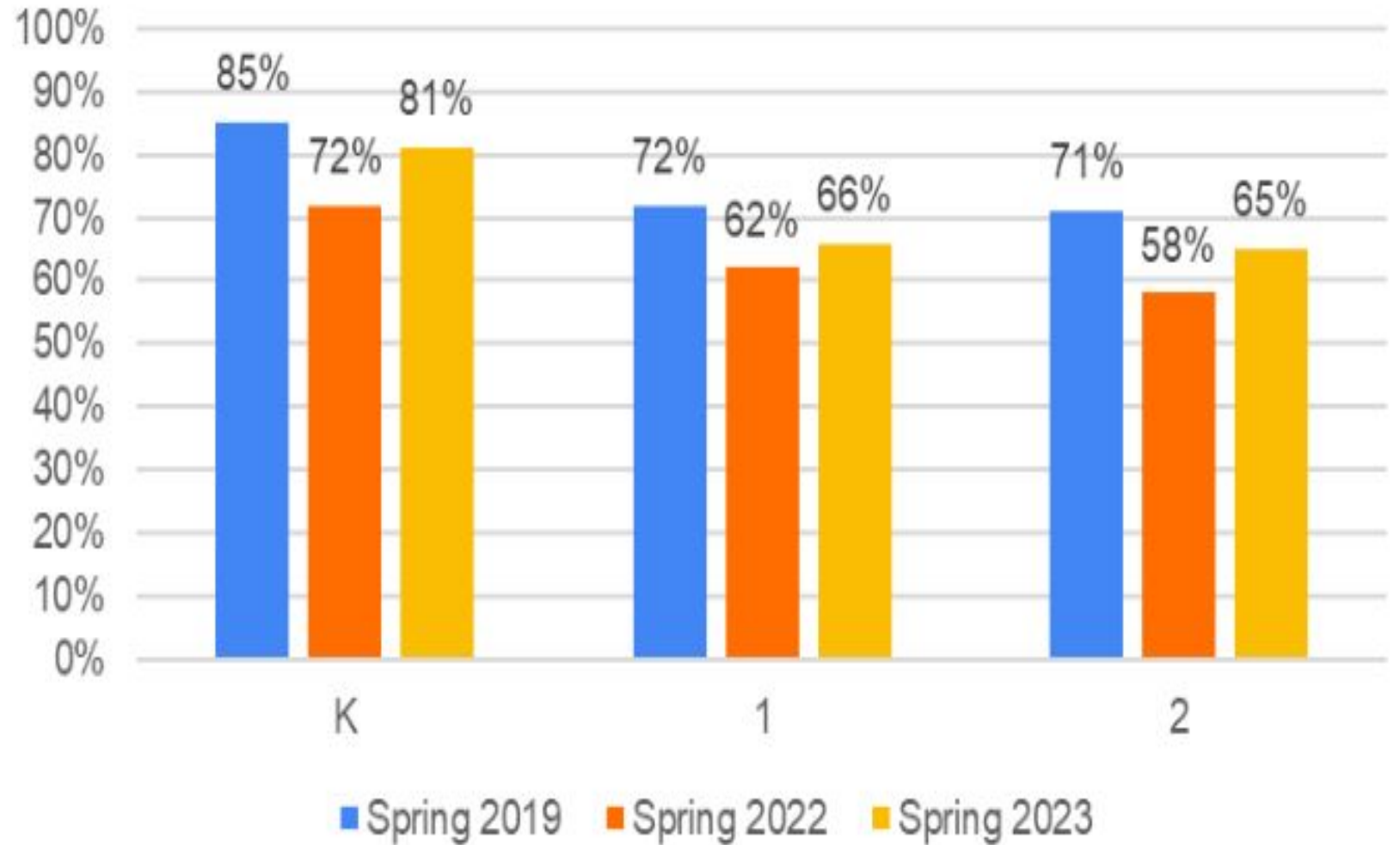
2020-2025 Strategic Plan: Equity for All

Data to Inform ACPS' Next Steps



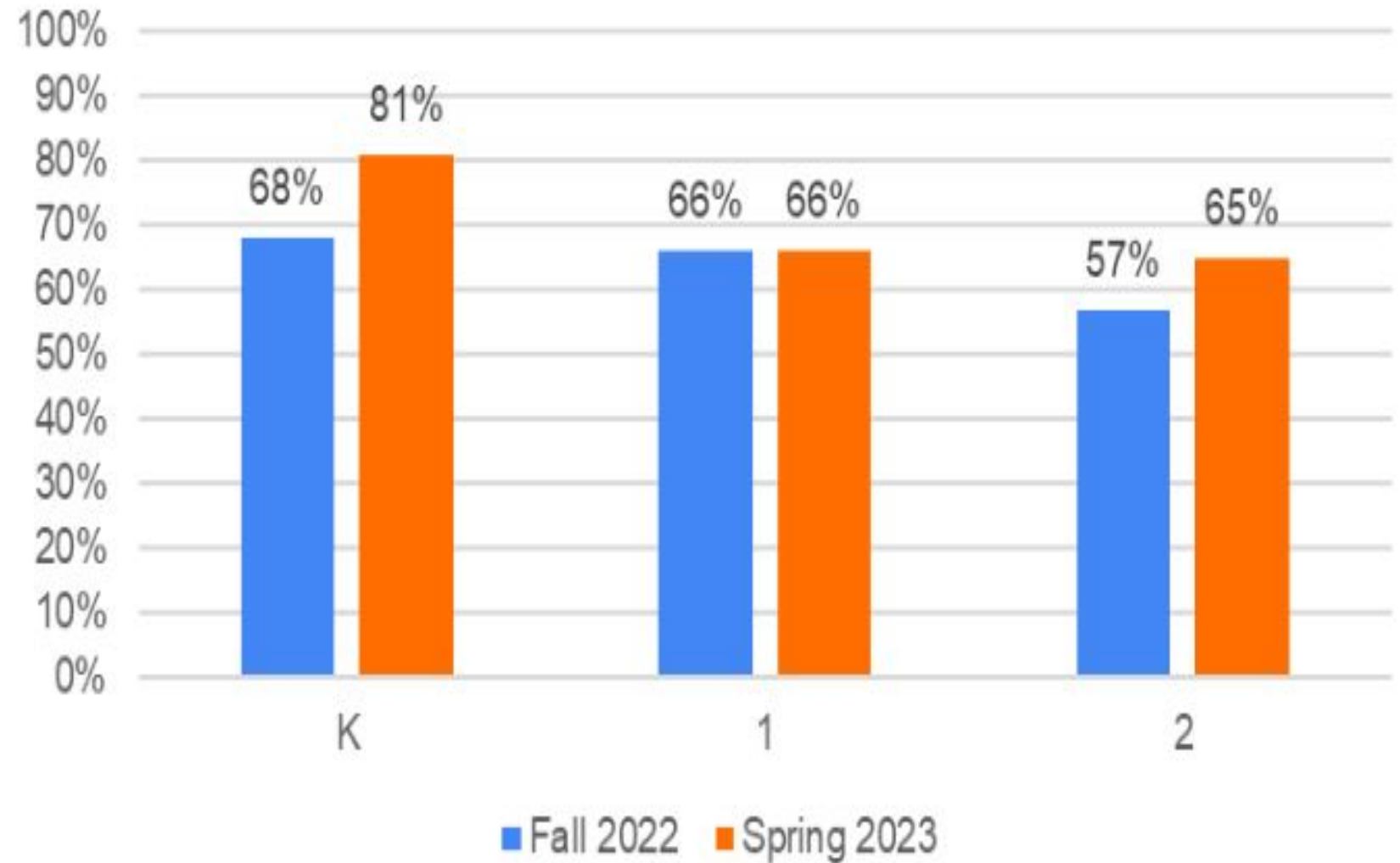


Percent of ACPS Students Meeting PALS Benchmark





Percent of ACPS Students Meeting PALS Benchmark





This Year's Implementation Milestones

- **Over 90% of K-5 teachers trained** by University of Delaware researchers in core instructional materials
- **100% of K-5 classrooms supplied with diverse student texts** and core high-quality instructional materials (HQIM) for daily classroom instruction
- **32 days of in-school coaching visits** with University of Delaware researchers across all elementary schools



This Year's Implementation Milestones (cont.)

- **Monthly division-wide professional learning community** gatherings for literacy leaders & teacher leaders
- **Four literacy training sessions** for administrators with University of Delaware researchers
- **Weekly classroom walkthroughs** by ACPS leadership

2020-2025 Strategic Plan: Equity for All

Moving to **Refinement and Integration** in Use of New Resources While Transitioning to Full Enactment of the **Virginia Literacy Act**

School Year 2024-2025



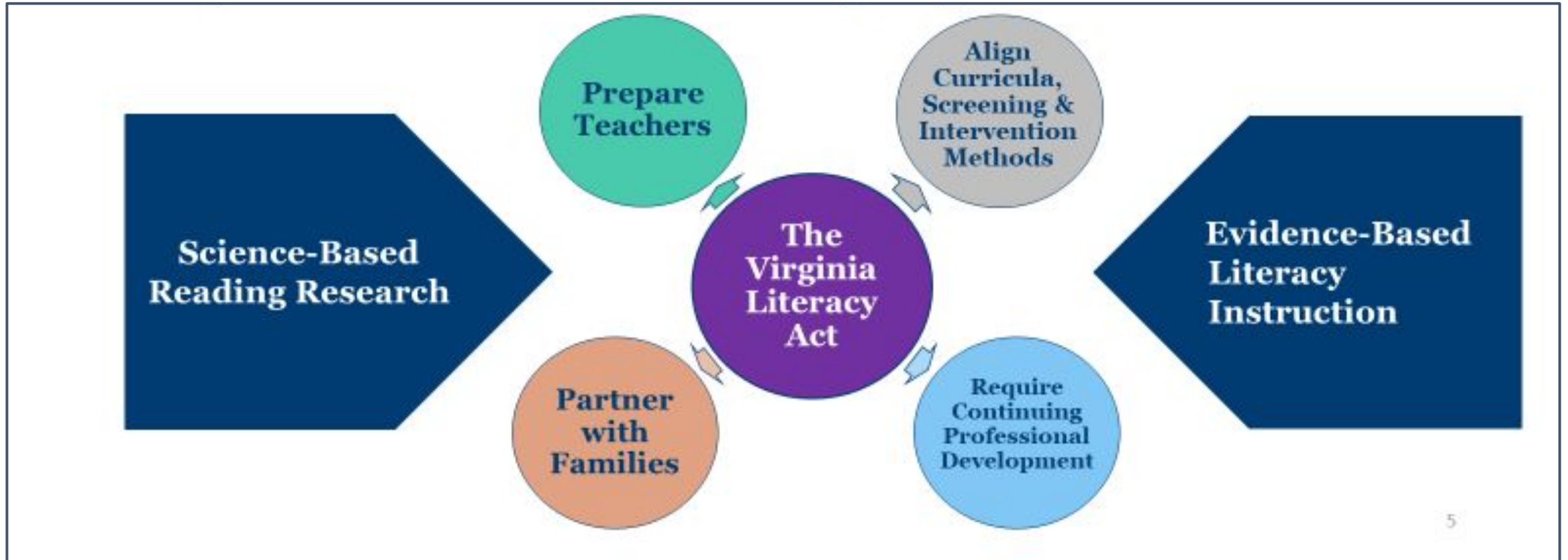


School Year 2024-2025: Moving to Refinement and Integration in Use of New Resources While Transitioning to Full Enactment of the Virginia Literacy Act

1. Refinement & Integration in Use of New Resources
2. New Literacy Screener & Student Reading Plans
3. Required Professional Learning
4. New English Language Arts Curriculum Standards
5. Division Literacy Plan Development



Full Implementation of Virginia Literacy Act





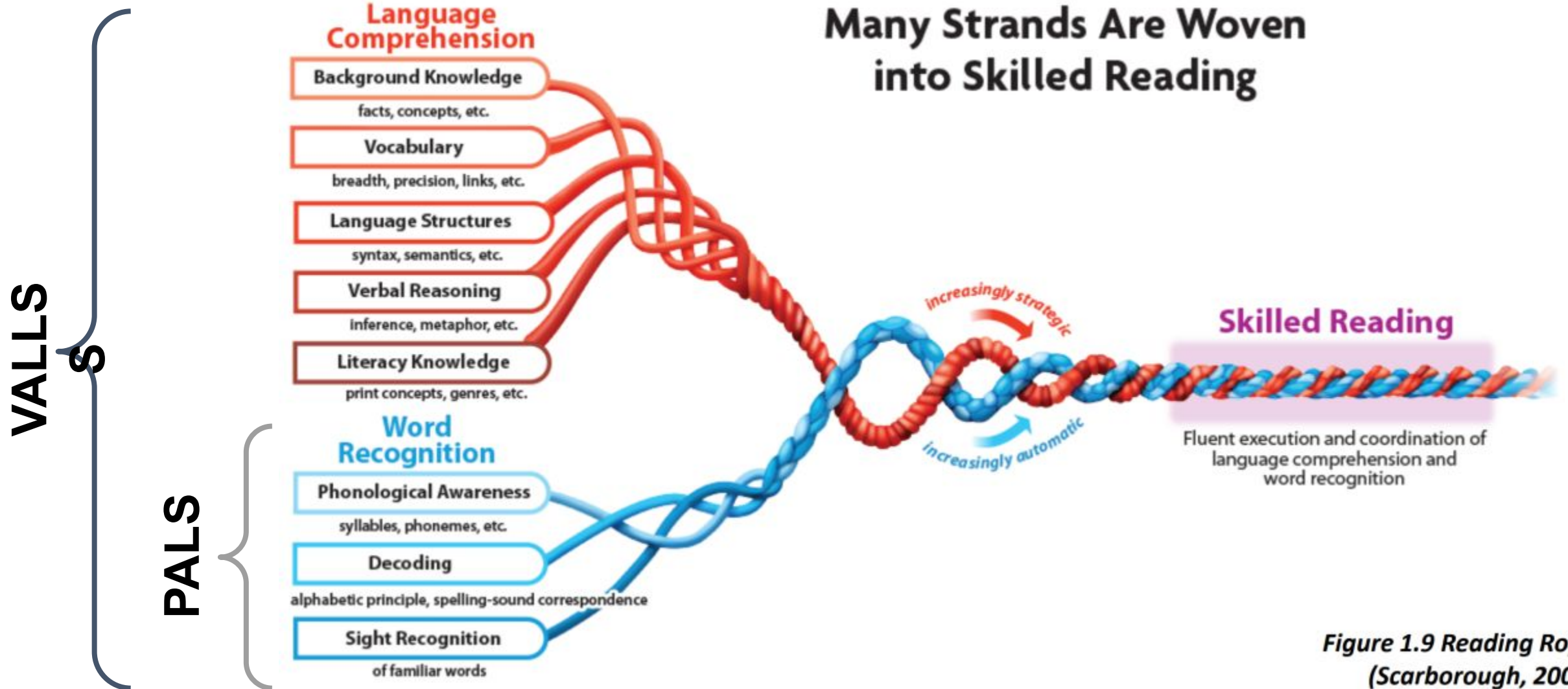
1. Refinement & Integration in Use of New Resources

- Enhanced collaborative planning across division, schools, and PLCs
 - stronger interdisciplinary connections
 - greater scaffolds for supporting diverse learners
 - enhanced project-based learning opportunities
- Enhanced leader capacity and skill for evidence-based feedback to support consistent implementation





2. New Literacy Screener & Student Reading Plans





3. Required Professional Learning

Module 1: Science-Based Reading Research and Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction	Module 2: Data Literacy	Module 3: Phonemic Awareness
Module 4: Phonics	Module 5: Dyslexia	Module 6: Fluency
Module 7: Reading Comprehension (Part 1)	Module 8: Reading Comprehension (Part 2)	Module 9: The Virginia Literacy Act: Implementation



4. New Curriculum Standards - Approved March 27, 2024 for Implementation 2024-2025

VDOE states, “The 2024 English Standards of Learning reflect the commitment to raise expectations and increase the rigor of our education to better align with the demands of the present and future world.”

2017 Standards of Learning	2024 Standards of Learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Communications ● Reading ● Writing ● Research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Foundations of Reading ● Developing Skilled Reader and Building Reading Stamina ● Reading and Vocabulary ● Reading Literary Text ● Reading Informational Text ● Writing Foundations ● Writing ● Language Usage ● Communications ● Research



5. Division Literacy Plan Development

Components:

- Division Literacy Vision
- High-Quality Instructional Material Selection (HQIM)
- Virginia Literacy Act Evidence-Based Reading Research Training
- Monitoring Student Assessment and Progress
- Assessing Division Level Progress
- Engaging Parents, Caregivers, and Community



Division Literacy Plan Development (cont.)

Vision: To foster enriching and inclusive literacy experiences for students by building a comprehensive, culturally-sustaining PreK-12 literacy program that reflects our diverse community. To empower students to think critically and communicate effectively within and beyond the classroom.



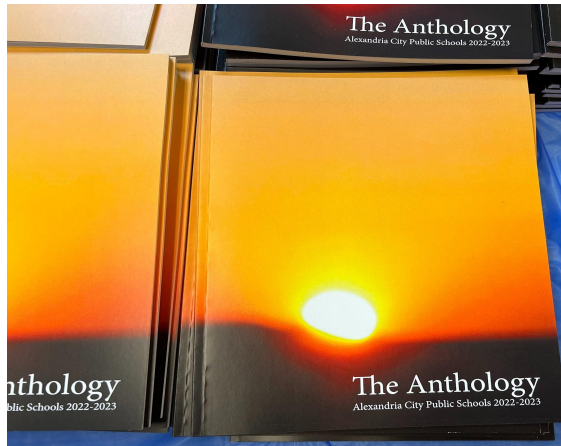
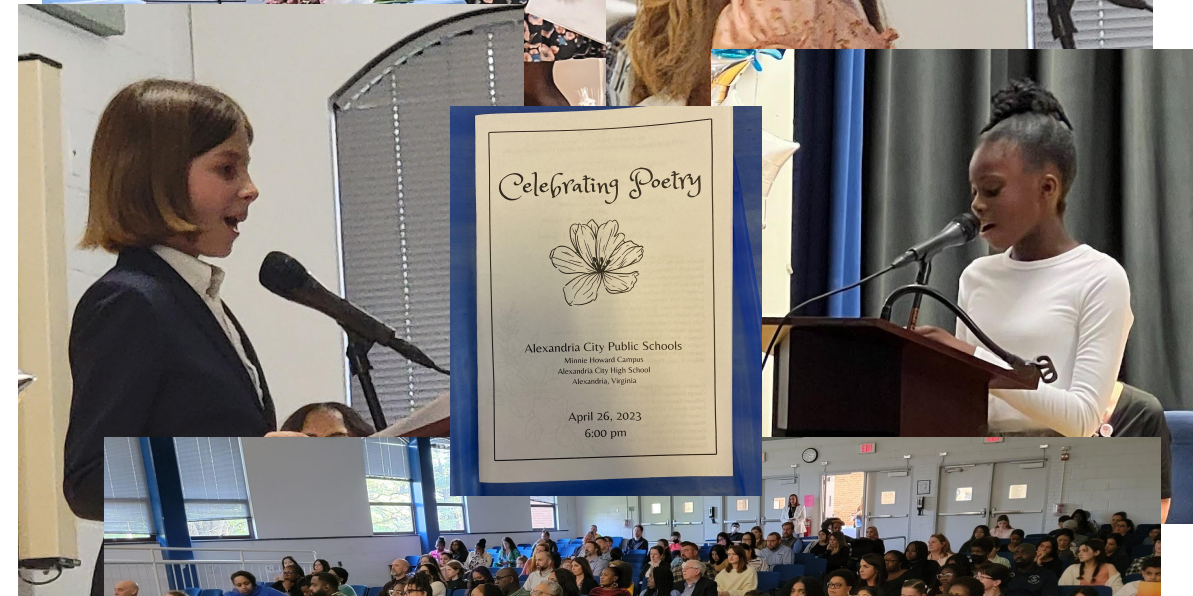


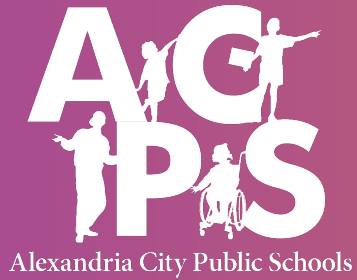
ACPS Poetry Ceremony

Date: Wednesday, May 1

Time: 6:00-8:00pm

Location: Alexandria City High School
Minnie Howard Campus Auditorium





Questions?

Pierrette Finney, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer

Carmen Sanders, Executive Director of Instructional Support

Kimberly Schell, K-12 Literacy Coordinator & Secondary Literacy Instructional Specialist

Carolyn Wooster, Ed.D., Elementary Literacy Instructional Specialist



Superintendent
Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt

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