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A Shared Commitment: Advancing Literacy Across School and Community

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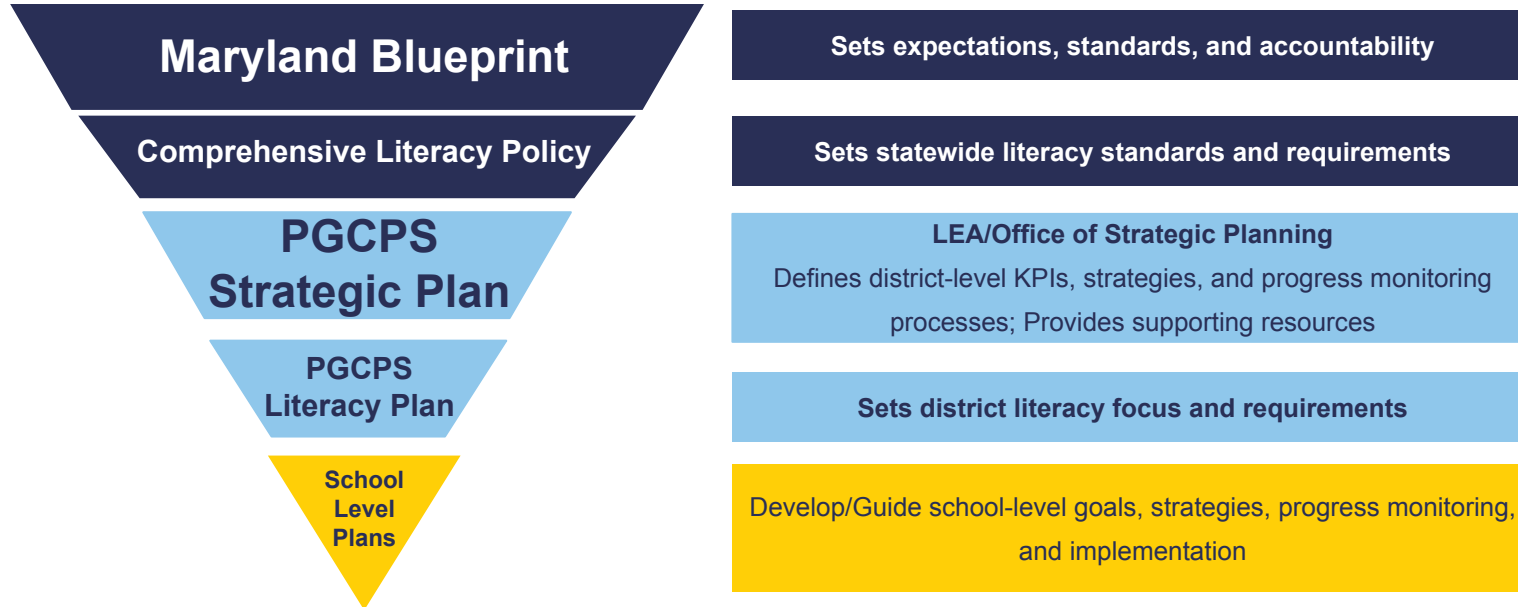
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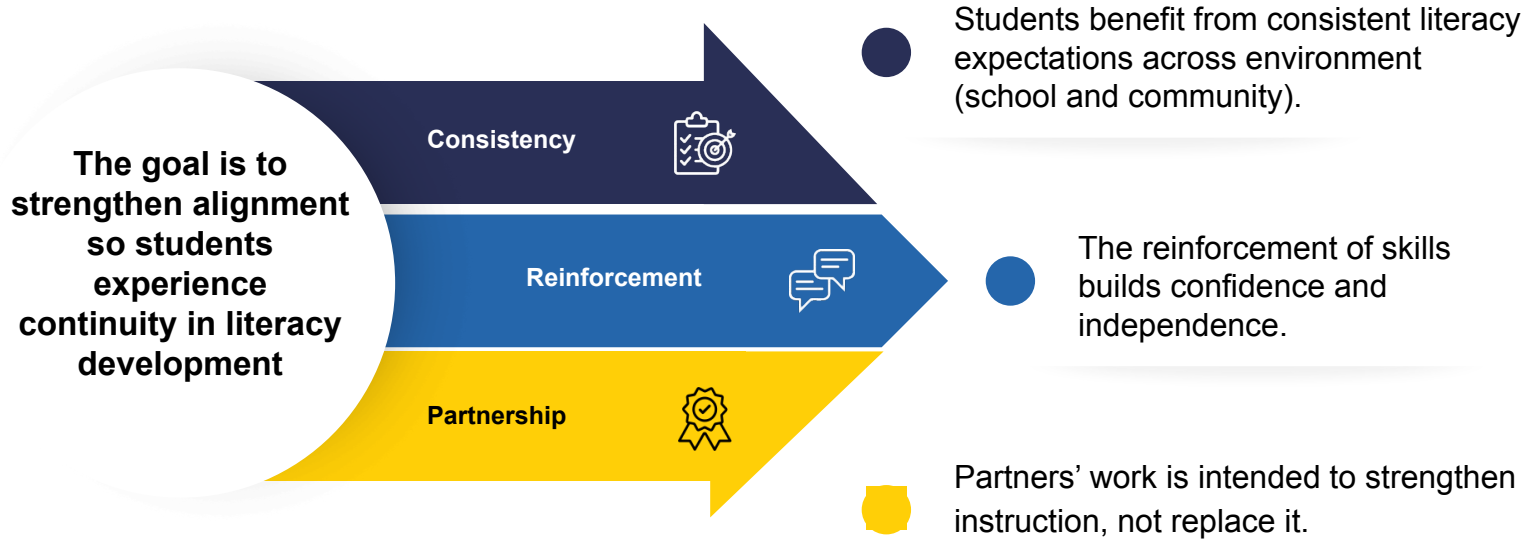


Student Success



“Alignment is the prerequisite for execution.” - Pete Drucker

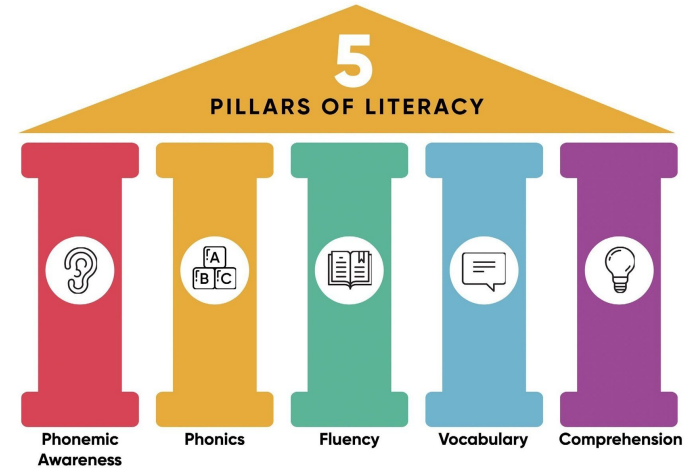
Advancing Literacy Across School and Community



The purpose is to produce students who are able to access, read, comprehend, analyze, evaluate, and write about information every day, essential for college and careers.

Science of Reading Research

The Science of Reading is a comprehensive, interdisciplinary body of over 50 years of research—spanning cognitive psychology, neuroscience, and linguistics—that **explains how proficient reading and writing develop**. It provides **evidence-based**, actionable insights on effective instruction, highlighting that reading requires **explicit, systematic** teaching of decoding (phonics) and language comprehension, and differentiation.



A Shared Vision for Student Literacy:

Speaking, Thinking, Reading, and Writing

01 Oral Language & Structured Discussion

Students share ideas, listen to others, ask questions, and build understanding together.

- Facilitating Talk Circles (PK-K)
- Leading Critical Conversations (9-12)

02 Vocabulary & Academic Language

Students learn and use new words in meaningful, real-world ways.

- Embedding Vocabulary in Play (K-2)
- Challenge with Academics Language (6-8)



03 Reading, Thinking, & Using Evidence

Students read, think critically, and use evidence to support their ideas.

- Structuring Camp Investigations (K-2)
- Using Evidence in Field Studies (6-8)



04 Writing to Communicate & Reflect

Students write to share ideas, tell stories, and reflect on their learning.

- Facilitating Early Mark-Making (PK-K)
- Guiding Impactful Writing (9-12)

PreK–12 Literacy Progression of High-Leverage Skills



	PreK-2	3rd-5th	6th-8th	9th-12th
Oral Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Express thoughts and ideas clearly in various settings Describe persons, animals, places, and events with details Speak clearly while following rules of spoken English Retell familiar stories and describe information from read-alouds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give class presentations using relevant facts and details Introduce topics or tell stories in a clear, logical order Use subject-specific vocabulary and spoken English rules Summarize information from multiple sources to answer questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present claims and findings in a focused, coherent manner Use eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation Demonstrate command of standard English grammar in formal speech Evaluate arguments and distinguish supported claims from unsupported ones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver evidence-based presentations that synthesize multiple perspectives Adapt speech and delivery style to formal and informal contexts Use advanced rhetorical devices and technical language to persuade Defend complex claims orally while responding to counter-arguments
Structured Discussion Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen, ask, and answer questions with adults and peers Participate in discussions by taking turns speaking Build on what others say during class conversations Work with peers to gather facts and information on topics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in discussions by listening, asking, and sharing ideas Build on the ideas of others during collaborative conversations Reference illustrations, maps, or texts to support answers Use nonfiction texts as a foundation for classroom discussions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Come to discussions prepared with studied material and evidence Engage in collaborative discussions with diverse partners on complex topics Explain and evaluate a speaker's argument and reasoning Interpret information presented in diverse media formats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead and facilitate student-led seminars or debates with structured protocols Synthesize group comments to resolve contradictions and reach consensus Evaluate speaker motives and potential biases in information Integrate research into real-time dialogue to support complex viewpoints

PreK–12 Literacy Progression of High-Leverage Skills



	PreK-2	3rd-5th	6th-8th	9th-12th
Vocabulary & Academic Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine the meaning of unknown words using conversations, pictures, or concrete objects Identify and use new words encountered through stories and informational texts Recognize and name written numerals and pair them with concrete objects to build early math language Use text features like tables of contents, captions, and maps to navigate informational texts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn and use new words related to specific subjects, including specialized science terminology Develop an understanding of technical math terms like fractions, decimals, area, and perimeter Identify and understand figurative language within literary texts Read and understand information presented in technical illustrations such as charts, graphs, and timelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze the impact of specific word choices on the meaning and tone of a reading Use positive and negative numbers to describe quantities and understand the concept of absolute value Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in scientific explanations, such as photosynthesis or mutations. Gather and interpret information from diverse media formats, including visual, quantitative, and oral presentations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine the meaning of words including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings in increasingly complex texts Analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on formal versus informal tone in professional and academic writing. Use knowledge of Greek and Latin roots and affixes as clues to the meaning of specialized academic vocabulary Demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when encountering unknown terms during high-level research and synthesis
Reading, Thinking, & Using Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask and answer questions about key details in texts Identify main ideas using pictures and words Retell stories and describe important events Use details from texts or read-alouds to explain thinking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine main idea and supporting details in texts Refer to the text to explain answers and ideas Compare information across texts and topics Use evidence from texts to support thinking and responses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze texts to identify central ideas and themes Cite relevant textual evidence to support analysis Interpret information from multiple sources Evaluate sources and perspectives when reading 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze and evaluate complex texts across content areas Synthesize information from multiple sources Use strong and relevant evidence to support claims Evaluate credibility, bias, and perspective in sources

PreK–12 Literacy Progression of High-Leverage Skills



Writing to Communicate and Reflect

PreK-2

- Draw, dictate, and write to express ideas
- Write simple sentences about a topic
- Share opinions and personal experiences in writing
- Use pictures and words together to communicate meaning

3rd-5th

- Write organized paragraphs with a clear topic
- Use details and examples to support ideas
- Write for different purposes (opinion, informational, narrative)
- Use basic structure (beginning, middle, end) in writing

6th-8th

- Write clear claims supported by evidence and reasoning
- Develop organized responses with structure and clarity
- Use evidence from texts to support writing (claim-evidence-reasoning)
- Revise writing to improve clarity and organization

9th-12th

- Develop clear, well-structured arguments and analyses
- Use precise evidence and reasoning to support claims
- Write for a variety of audiences and purposes
- Revise and refine writing to strengthen communication

Oral Language & Structured Discussion Skills: Community in Action

PreK-K Express Thoughts Clearly



K Describe Details with Confidence



PreK-2nd Retell Familiar Stories/Information



1st-2nd Speak Clearly, Follow Rules



Community Partners can:

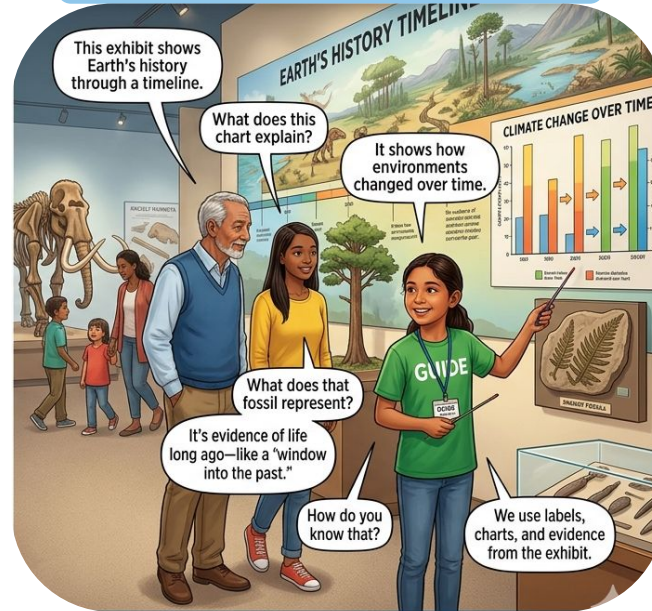
- Read aloud to model fluent reading
- Encourage group discussions
- Ask open-ended questions
- Lead discussions that allows for various opinions
- Say, "Tell me more about that"

Vocabulary & Academic Language: Community in Action

3rd grade Science Investigator



5th Grade Museum Storytelling Guide



Community Partners can:

- Require the usage of the proper names/terminology
- Ask questions to solicit expressive and descriptive language
- Provide opportunities to interpret information from graphics, charts, and timelines

Reading, Thinking, and Using Evidence: Community in Action

Summer Program



Community Partners can:

- Use text to prompt discussions
- Require the use of evidence from the text/sources to support claims
- Present multiple text/sources to allow synthesis

Writing to Communicate and Reflect: Community in Action

9th Grade Warehouse Inventory

Evidence + Organization + Reasoning



12th Grade Office Support

Writing + Revision + Audience Purpose



Community Partners can:

- Encourage the use of drawings or writing to explain or express ideas
- Review and provide feedback for revisions to strengthen products
- Require accuracy, encourage self-checks

Guidance for Community Partners: Literacy



PreK-2

- Share thoughts and ideas clearly in different settings
- Describe people, places, animals, and events in detail
- Speak clearly using basic English rules
- Retell stories and talk about read-alouds

Tools/Supports: journals, picture drawing, story retell cards, partner talk

Grades 3-5

- Give short presentations with facts and details
- Organize ideas in a clear order
- Use subject vocabulary and correct speaking skills
- Summarize information from different sources

Tools/Supports: note cards, graphic organizers, anchor charts, small group discussions

Grades 6-8

- Use eye contact, strong voice, and clear pronunciation
- Use correct grammar when speaking
- Explain and compare evidence and ideas

Tools/Supports: presentation slides, debate frames, evidence organizers, peer feedback

Grades 9-12

- Study business and marketing influences
- Deliver clear, evidence-based presentations
- Adjust speaking style for different audiences
- Use strong vocabulary and persuasive language
- Defend ideas and respond to questions or challenges

Tools/Supports: research notes, multimedia presentations, speech outlines, rebuttal frameworks

Resources

- [PGCPS Student Learner Profile](#)
- [Things All Students Need to Know](#)
- [How Community Partners can Support Students](#)
- [Read Across PGCPS](#)

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