

## BOARD BRIEF

Date: May 7, 2021

BOARD INFORMATION:   X  

MEETING PREPARATION:   X  

**FROM:** Terri H. Mazingo, Ed.D., Chief of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership  
Gerald R. Mann, Jr., Ed.D., Executive Director of Instructional Support  
Candace Pannell, Textbook and Library Media Services Instructional Specialist  
Kimberly Schell, K-12 Literacy Team Coordinator, and Secondary Literacy Curriculum Specialist

**THROUGH:** Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

**TO:** Meagan L. Alderton, Chair, and  
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

**TOPIC:** English Language Arts (ELA) Textbook Resource Adoption (Grades 6-12)

### **ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL**

Goal 2: Instructional Excellence  
Goal 3: Student Accessibility and Support  
Goal 4: Strategic Resource Allocation  
Goal 5: Family and Community Engagement

### **SY 2020-2021 FOCUS AREA**

Focus Area 3: Strategic Plan Implementation  
Focus Area 5: Academic Disparities

### **FY 2021 BUDGET PRIORITY**

Specialized Instruction Audit Implementation  
MTSS Including Restorative Practices and PBIS  
Increased Staff Retention  
Communications and Customer Service for Internal Stakeholders

### **SUMMARY**

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) adopted the revised Virginia Standards of Learning for English in 2017. In 2018-2019, the VDOE administered the textbook review process for the Board of Education and made recommendations on approval to the board. On March 21, 2019, the Board of Education approved a list of recommended textbooks for K-12 English textbooks. The complete list of approved textbooks is available [here](#). ACPS initiated a local textbook review process in September 2020 to provide needed materials for the 2021-2022 school year and beyond, in accordance with Policy IIAA, Textbook Selection, and Adoption. A Request for Purchase (RFP) process was initiated to allow for the review of materials beyond the VDOE-approved list to provide a more comprehensive selection with the potential to meet the needs of students in ACPS.

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### BACKGROUND

Ms. Candace Pannell and Ms. Kimberly Schell led the secondary Textbook Selection Committees (TSC), which included members with diverse educational backgrounds and experiences. Each school principal was invited to select instructional staff members to represent their school. School-based instructional staff members included classroom teachers, English Learner (EL) teachers, instructional coaches, special education teachers, and assistant principals. In addition, instructional specialists from the Offices of Specialized Instruction, English Learners, Talented and Gifted (TAG) Programs, Technology Integration, and Technology Services all participated as members of the committee.

The TSC carefully compared the materials submitted by vendors with the ACPS English Language Arts Curriculum to identify topics addressed within each text. The TSC used the following criteria when reviewing instructional materials:

- Alignment with the Virginia Standards of Learning;
- Quality of English content, as presented in student materials and instructional guidance;
- Quality of Clever and Canvas integration as well as digital resources and teacher materials;
- Quality of assessment materials to provide a balanced approach to assessment; and
- Quality of proposed professional development plan.

The TSC reviewed the following publishers' textbooks for possible use with the secondary English Language Arts program: McGraw Hill, Academy Global, NoRedInk, Houghton Mifflin, Savvas Learning, Renaissance Learning, and Newsela. For AP/DE, the TSC reviewed the following publishers' textbooks: Cengage Learning, Mackin Educational Resources, McGraw Hill, Perfection Learning, and MacMillan Holdings.

The Textbook Selection Committee sought additional feedback from school-based staff through individual and collaborative reviews and meetings of professional-learning communities to evaluate specific offerings by grade level and course. Based on the discussions and feedback regarding alignment with the Virginia Standards of Learning and the other identified criteria, specific textbooks were recommended for each course.

### RECOMMENDATION

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the materials recommended by the Textbook Selection Committees (TSC):

- **Grades 6-12** - Savvas Learning Company, *myPerspectives* English Language Arts, Savvas Realize Digital Platform, *myPerspectives Plus: Digital Novels, Writing and Research Center*, Mackin Novels and Digital Library, NoRedInk Premium Digital
- **Advanced Placement (AP)** - Cengage Learning Inc., *Fast Track to 5 Test Prep*, Perrine's *Literature: Structure, Sound and Sense*, *Compact Literature: Reading, Reacting, Writing*, *Reading for Writers: AP Edition*, Mind Tap Digital Platform, Gale College Collection Database, College Board, and Mackin Novels and Digital Library
- **Dual Enrollment (DE)** - Mackin Novels and Digital Library

Please see the attachments below for a complete list of titles by grade level and instructions on how to review the recommended materials.

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### IMPACT

ACPS plans to purchase digital materials and classroom sets of print resources. Funding for the textbook adoption was approved as part of the FY2022 Capital Improvement Budget in the amount of \$929,900.

In collaboration with Procurement, Ms. Pannell will work with Ms. Schell to order the textbooks by July 1, 2021, with distribution to schools occurring by July 30, 2021. As part of the new adoption, the vendors will provide English language arts teachers with five to seven days of in-person/virtual training on division-designated professional development days with ongoing digital support to successfully implement the textbook and instructional materials. Professional development will be ongoing throughout the year, including after-school sessions, job-embedded professional development through Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), and professional development for administrators and instructional leaders. Professional development will be provided online as necessary.

### ATTACHMENTS

1. [List of Recommended Materials \(Grades 6-12\)](#)
2. [Instructions for Accessing Online Materials for Review](#)
3. [English Language Arts Evaluation Criteria](#)
4. [Advanced Placement/Dual Enrollment English Language Arts Evaluation Criteria](#)

### CONTACTS

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