**English Language Arts**

**Help Your K-2 Students Build Knowledge**

Building knowledge and vocabulary is critical for all students, even if they are not yet able to read independently. To support this important work, Student Achievement Partners has created new text sets to use in conjunction with our existing Read Aloud Lessons. These collections of free, downloadable texts, along with writing tasks, will help reinforce the concepts and vocabulary used in the anchor text of the lesson. Visit our [Read Aloud Lesson page](https://achievethecore.org/category/411/ela-literacy-lessons?filter_cat=1207&sort=name) to explore these new resources!

**Understanding Vocabulary Standards: Building Students’ Skills**

In Mississippi, the state-wide assessment is completely teacher-written. As teachers from around the state were developing items, it was evident that there was confusion about alignment of vocabulary items. Specifically, teachers struggled to differentiate between the vocabulary standards in the Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards. Considering it was difficult for item writers to differentiate between these standards when writing items for the state assessment, we figured teachers might be confused about how to *teach* these vocabulary standards as well. [Read more](https://achievethecore.org/aligned/understanding-vocabulary-standards-building-students-skills/)…

**Balanced Reading Diet (BRD) Featured Activities**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Emergent (Pre-Reader)** | **Featured Activity** | **Monthly Take-Home Activities** |
| Concept of Word | [Pre-K Cafe](https://pals.virginia.edu/public/pdfs/activities/cow/prek_cafe.pdf) | [A Growing Vocabulary](https://pals.virginia.edu/pdfs/ParentActivities/PA_AGrowingVocabulary.pdf)  [Grocery Store Sound Shopping](https://pals.virginia.edu/pdfs/ParentActivities/PA_GroceryStoreSoundShopping.pdf)  [Make a Routine for Reading](https://pals.virginia.edu/pdfs/ParentActivities/PA_MakeARoutineForReading.pdf)  [Phonological Awareness Fun](https://pals.virginia.edu/pdfs/ParentActivities/PA_PhonologicalAwarenessFun.pdf)  [Planning a Vacation](https://pals.virginia.edu/pdfs/ParentActivities/PA_PlanningAVacation.pdf)  [Raising a Reader](https://pals.virginia.edu/pdfs/ParentActivities/PA_RaisingAReader.pdf) |
| **Beginning Reader** | **Featured Activity** |
| Fluency | [Whole-Class Choral Reading](https://crmsliteracy.wikispaces.com/file/view/That+Sounded+Good-Whole+Class+Chorale+Reading.pdf) |
| **Instructional/Transitional Reader** | **Featured Activity** |
| Comprehension | [Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs Lesson & Text Set](https://achievethecore.org/page/2594/cloudy-with-a-chance-of-meatballs-with-companion-text-set-grade-2-version) |
| [Click here](https://wvk12-my.sharepoint.com/personal/cschwartz_k12_wv_us/_layouts/15/guestaccess.aspx?docid=0d2b2e132de294f6c97bd7c1fe6e02deb&authkey=ARbIm6cylEOKiPXMHg1DtLI&expiration=2020-01-08T20%3A48%3A05.000Z&e=bc8d9ba6479c4b3f8be9918af5ded6c4) for activities for all BRD components | [Click here](https://wvk12-my.sharepoint.com/personal/cschwartz_k12_wv_us/_layouts/15/guestaccess.aspx?docid=0ac5f4ff05a9349e5a233aad741dc45d8&authkey=AfDtWMxjo5J1HSFrqdDii78&expiration=2020-01-08T20%3A48%3A45.000Z&e=6846d81246f641e18fa3c3cbbf767ae0) for information about the BRD Components | [Click here](https://wvk12-my.sharepoint.com/personal/cschwartz_k12_wv_us/_layouts/15/guestaccess.aspx?docid=034cc7d29166d4c6394b934b66f546a66&authkey=AT2tn9z7f_1r_ZSXIfPwZWQ&expiration=2019-12-11T17%3A11%3A09.000Z&e=c187953dd1ae485485922d9089d06edf) for blank BRD Lesson Planning Templates |

**PALS (Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening)**

* The [PALS Monthly Webinar](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0011czliP39CpkRUz2w55rIBmNmHDBiceVzSA7bcXEq45yH0hhu_dpKqSoxUnD43_D2-BNsMZXKwdEBD8cGC7ny7hZuU1MIzUFD5l9rFFXMmwPLvNqAWfK4JZP7ZSFvFFtKL9zQwE_fQ3AyaQHZOEmvuU3D00u0EgVFqC6Zbw1WZXI46U_2udghbirMcD3ihv0A88ostJnPXBvoxZzkjf198zME8CZzQQN0&c=XxT0XeRJSVPbG83owO0oyA699ZTlIDelwPdtitbdQz1l4SeAHHOvYw==&ch=h9TQhxnZFQmDcgfjwS12CFPgX4xhO9SV1R6Zjd1ckVoZUP-TQOgAdA==) topic is **"How PALS Supports Reading Comprehension."**
* Join us on March 20 at 4:30 ET.  Premier customers will receive an email with the webinar link during the preceding week.
* Our recorded webinars are on the [PALS Professional Development website.](https://palspd.ioeducation.com/)
* See what’s new in the [PALS March Newsletter](https://wvk12-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/cschwartz_k12_wv_us/EZXmqh0fzo9Ev9lgv62HMawBvSBfMmjI3KhBftxdJNRiQw?e=wMNs1l)!

To learn more about PALS, contact Lisa Ray*,*[*lmray@k12.wv.us*](mailto:lmray@k12.wv.us), or Charlotte Webb, [*ctwebb@k12.wv.us*](mailto:ctwebb@k12.wv.us), at 304-558- 9994.

**Build Literacy Skills from the Ground Up**

Without the basic building blocks of literacy, students will always struggle with reading. They will be unable to tackle new texts if they can't decode new words or lack the foundation of sound and spelling patterns. Student Achievement Partners has developed a new [foundational skills collection](https://achievethecore.org/category/1206/ela-literacy-foundational-skills) with resources to support teachers, such as:

* [Guidance documents](https://achievethecore.org/content/upload/Foundational%20Skills%20Guidance%20Document%20Dec.%202017.pdf) to build an understanding of foundational skills
* Fun, student-friendly [games and activities](https://achievethecore.org/content/upload/Effective%20Enhancements%20for%20Foundational%20Skills.pdf)
* An informal [Assessment Protocol](https://achievethecore.org/content/upload/Foundational%20Skills%20Assessment%20Protocol.pdf) for phonics and high-frequency words
* A [Decodable Reader Protocol](https://achievethecore.org/content/upload/Decodable%20Reader%20Protocol_2018.pdf) to support repeated reads

Learn more by listening to the [foundational skills mini-course modules](https://achievethecore.org/category/1205/understand-foundational-skills) or following along with [the foundational skills blog series](https://achievethecore.org/aligned/series/?series=Foundational%20Literacy%20Skills).

**Math**

**How to Select Math Intervention Content**

How far should interventions flow back in order to access grade-level content? Of course, as with most things in education, there isn’t a simple and straightforward answer. First, as educators, we all know that each student is different; effective intervention is created and instructional decisions are made in the quickest flash of a day as we determine the changing needs of each student. [Read more](https://achievethecore.org/aligned/select-math-intervention-content/)…

**Math Modeling Myths**

Ask your colleagues what it means to model with mathematics and you will probably get different answers from each one. Watch this [recorded webinar](https://achievethecore.org/page/3152/math-modeling-myths-2018-february-webinar) to explore a variety of K-12 activities intended to build a student's ability to model with mathematics. Participants will build a better understanding of what it means to “Model with Mathematics,” develop an understanding of the progression of mathematical modeling across grade levels, and hear how educators are using these ideas in their classrooms.

**Early and Elementary Learning Mathematics Webinars**

The Office of Early and Elementary Learning at the West Virginia Department of Education is hosting a webinar series focused on the Growth Mindset in Mathematics using the work of Dr. Jo Boaler. The monthly webinars encourage elementary educators to develop a growth mindset in mathematics, to approach mathematics with confidence and enthusiasm, and to pass that on to their students. Teachers and students with a growth mindset in mathematics engage with math deeply, and grow in their understanding, innovation, creativity, and fulfill their mathematics potential. Join us this month as we discuss the topic, *Math is About Learning, Not Performing*, at the following web address: <https://wvde.adobeconnect.com/mathmind/>. **The March mathematics webinar is on March 19, 2018 at 3:30 PM.**

**NCTM Illuminations – Engaging Math Resources for Your Students**

* PreK – Grade 2 – [Pyramid Power](https://illuminations.nctm.org/Lesson.aspx?id=404) In this lesson, students make sets of a given number, explore relationships between numbers, and write numbers that name how many elements are in a group. They make and record sets of one more and one less than a given number.
* Grades 3-5 – [Pizza at Home](https://illuminations.nctm.org/Lesson.aspx?id=898) In this lesson, students survey members of their community to determine preferences about pizza. Students compare their results with their classmates and create graphs of their data.

**Start Planning Now for the Summer Math Challenge!**

On average, all students regardless of socio-economic status, lose approximately 2.6 months of grade level equivalency in mathematical computation over the summer months each year. The Summer Math Challenge is a free math skills resource based on college and career readiness standards and designed to help students retain math skills that were learned the previous year. [Learn more](https://www.quantiles.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Summer-Math-Challenge-Flyer-Color.pdf)…

**Content Areas**

**WV Fit & Active Schools Training**

WVDE Fit & Active Schools training is a collaborative effort between the WVDE and WVDHHR to improving the culture of physical activity and quality of physical education in our schools. The training provides classroom teachers and administrators beneficial resources to incorporate more physical activity in the school day. Classroom teachers will be trained by fellow WV classroom teachers on innovative ways to incorporate physical activity into the academic setting. The training is **FREE** and participants will also receive three Non-Degree Graduate Credits from Concord University or a stipend if credits are not desired. Follow-up assignments required. [Learn more](https://wvk12-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/cschwartz_k12_wv_us/Ebm1dyqwr3xOvTS0N5xJcH0Bv1WJxPTargMmmlU-4V9czw?e=ofjhze)…

**STEM Speaker Series: Super Cells with Nina Tandon**

In this free keynote, Nina Tandon takes us on an eye-popping tour of the tantalizing array of inventions already being created with nature’s elemental building block, the cell. With great enthusiasm, Tandon contends that we’re entering a new technological revolution, one in which we can create smarter technologies by making cells our partners in design. Learn more and register [here](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/stem-speaker-series-super-cells-with-nina-tandon-tickets-43662726390).

**WV State Museum Educational Resource Guide – Lesson Plans for the K-5 WV History Standards!**

This resource seeks to bring the West Virginia State Museum into the classroom in a new digital format. When you navigate to the main screen, you will be presented with icons to choose from grades K-5. When you select a grade, you can then choose from a variety of topics, including detailed lesson plans for the K-5 WV History standardswith vocabulary, connected links, and videos. [Click here](http://wvstatemuseumed.wv.gov/home.html) to get started!

**FREE Access to Ebsco Host, Scholastic Go, World Book Online and More at the WV Library Commission’s Info Depot!**

The West Virginia Library Commission provides statewide databases free of charge to all educators and students! To access any of the links that take you to Ebsco Host or Scholastic Go, the username is *WEST* and the password is *VIRGINIA*. To access World Book Online, the username is *4WEST* and the password is *VIRGINIA*. Additionally, if you choose the Advanced Search feature on Explora (Ebsco Host) Primary, Middle and HS, and Novel List Plus, you can specify the Lexile level(s) of the resources you request! [Click here](http://wvinfodepot.org/) to get started.

**Miscellaneous**

**Read Aloud WV Book Lists and Reviews**

Looking for something for your Read Aloud class or maybe for your family? Check out these excellent [book lists](https://readaloudwestvirginia.org/book-lists-and-reviews/), plus reviews and recommendations from our readers, librarians, parents, teachers and students.

**Reading Recommendations for the Five and Unders**

Tim Shanahan elaborates on what makes an ideal book for a baby, toddler, or kindergartner. This [blog post](http://shanahanonliteracy.com/blog/reading-recommendations-for-the-five-and-unders#sthash.p4k2rCgq.dpbs) contains book recommendations and parent guidelines for choosing developmentally appropriate and engaging books for all of the little people in their lives.

**Get Your Game On with School Grants for Healthy Kids!**

Could your school use $1,000 to support physical activity and nutrition initiatives?  Action for Healthy Kids (AFHK) is currently accepting grant applications for the 2018-2019 school year through April 6th!  These funds may be used for physical activity initiatives such as: before/after school programs, intramurals, classroom brain-breaks, PE equipment, playground refurbishment, etc. This grant can also be used to support school nutrition initiatives including: nutrition education, school gardens, competitive foods/smart snacks, salad bars, smarter lunchrooms, healthy fundraising, classroom celebrations, classroom rewards that introduce healthy foods. Click here to download the  [application](https://wvk12-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/cschwartz_k12_wv_us/ERZpMq__chJDgtcjCs50c7oBl5I8QU9xCV1cIR20Zg2klg?e=svdl0l) and [application instructions.](https://wvk12-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/cschwartz_k12_wv_us/EX9-uhlOwOlJufmnHymRq-oBBWp2RMc4rrLK-SHGCPqtpA?e=JHJ2cg)  Watch the [Game On Grants Webinar](http://www2.actionforhealthykids.org/e/21152/v-dfb7b4qqj3o-feature-youtu-be/5bcvt5/360260352) for helpful tips. Click here to view the

[slides of the presentation.](https://wvk12-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/cschwartz_k12_wv_us/EbsiGJSXlPBAhlj7T4pYPAwBzkAG-GmuJ76sSNgOtjAcPg?e=ijpiUq) Contact the WV State Coordinator, Brandon Williams, if you have any questions at [bwilliams@actionaforhealthykids.org](mailto:bwilliams@actionaforhealthykids.org).

**Highmark Foundation School Grant Awards**

Public, private, parochial and charter schools and vocational high schools throughout West Virginia and Pennsylvania (excluding Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties) are invited to apply for the three offerings of the Highmark Foundation’s School Grant and Awards Program: School Grant Program, Advancing Excellence in School Nursing Awards, and Supportive Services Health Grants. [Learn more](https://wvk12-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/cschwartz_k12_wv_us/EZCKoVdPoCdLrSCjnT4Pt-sBBswobRBVTnJdt6UTMSkX4A?e=rFydvJ)…

**OWL Program encourages reading to babies and toddlers**

 A program launched by the [Kanawha County Public Library](https://readaloudwestvirginia.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=57e48b6ecd44320fa032f0414&id=cc4d242f52&e=e692167fa0) is making it easier for families to read regularly to their preschoolers. The Open Worlds of Learning (OWL) program offers a simple way to check out a variety of age-appropriate books for children from birth to age three. Parents and guardians age 18 and older may apply for an OWL card, receive a bag of ten books and keep them as long as they like. Once the books have been read, they can be exchanged for another bag of books. Since young children can be a bit rough on the books they love and explore, families are not charged for damaged books. [Read more...](https://readaloudwestvirginia.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=57e48b6ecd44320fa032f0414&id=c620f28391&e=e692167fa0)

**TIS & That**

The Office of Technology Integration and Support publishes a newsletter that is loaded with technology resources and tips for how to integrate them in a way that enhances classroom instruction. Check out [Volume 6-Issue 12](https://wvk12-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/cschwartz_k12_wv_us/ETj7sogaeVNGoO2g647BS9kBxRLGUd0YmBXFr-vtDTDjJQ?e=1KO1El) and [Volume 6-Issue 13](https://wvk12-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/cschwartz_k12_wv_us/ETEyF8ldGClOhnpO3YEDn4YBmgLaU4CZPYjbEusZy4cLbQ?e=FLp2Ty) for engaging resources to improve your technology integration!

If you’d like to be added to the monthly listserv, please emailCharlotte Webb at [*ctwebb@k12.wv.us*](mailto:ctwebb@k12.wv.us)*.*