



BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
2309 TULARE STREET  
BOARD ROOM, SECOND FLOOR  
FRESNO, CA 93721-2287  
[board.fresnounified.org](http://board.fresnounified.org)

**AGENDA  
BOARD WORKSHOP  
THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023  
5:00 P.M. (OPEN SESSION)**

\*DESIGNATED TIMES ARE ESTIMATES.

Please note: Parking will be available for Board meetings after 5:00 p.m. at the N Street Parking Pavilion located on the southeast corner of Tulare and "N" Streets – Entrance is on "N" Street. Board meeting attendees without key cards should report to the parking booth to be processed by the attendant. Please do NOT take a ticket. Also, the City of Fresno will not enforce the street meters in this area after 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For the safety of all who attend Fresno Unified Board Meetings, everyone entering the Board of Education Room is subject to metal detector scanning. The use of metal detectors is approved under Board Policy 5145.12. The following items will not be permitted: alcohol, illegal drugs, knives, or firearms.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring special assistance to access the Board meeting room, to access written documents being discussed at the Board meeting, or to otherwise participate at Board meetings, please contact the Board President or Board Office at 457-3727. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the district to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to the Board meeting and to provide any required accommodations, auxiliary aids, or services.

Any member of the public who wishes to address the Board shall submit a speaker card specifying the item(s) they wish to address. The card must be submitted before the Board President announces the specific agenda item.

Public materials are available for public inspection at our website at: [board.fresnounified.org](http://board.fresnounified.org)

TRANSLATION SERVICES: Available in Spanish and Hmong in the meeting room upon request.

**\*5:00 P.M.**

**CALL** Meeting to Order

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

A member of staff will lead the flag salute.

**PRESENT and DISCUSS an Overview of the Fresno Unified Literacy Initiative**

Staff will present an overview of the district's new literacy initiative which will include the establishment of a literacy task force and campaign. In August 2023, Fresno Unified will launch a literacy initiative with an emphasis on reading on grade level by the end of first grade. Staff will share background, literacy practices, and key events leading to the launch. There is no fiscal impact to the district at this time. Contact person: Dr. Natasha Baker, telephone 457-3731.

**OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment on Item**

**UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Individuals who wish to address the Board on topics within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction, but **not** listed on this agenda may do so at this time. If you wish to address the Board on a specific item that is listed on the agenda, you should do so when that specific item is called. Individuals shall submit a speaker card specifying the topic they wish to address. The card must be submitted before the Board President announces unscheduled oral communications.

While time limitations are at the discretion of the Board President, generally members of the public will be limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes per speaker for a total of thirty (30) minutes of public comment as designated on this agenda. The Board recognizes that individuals may ask the Board to answer questions or respond to statements made during unscheduled oral communications and in accordance with Board Bylaw 9323, the Board shall take no action or discussion on any item not appearing on the posted agenda, except as authorized by law.

Members of the public with questions on school district issues may submit them in writing. The Board will automatically refer to the Superintendent any formal requests that are brought before them at this time. The appropriate staff member will furnish answers to questions.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023**

Fresno Unified School District  
Board Agenda Item

Board Meeting Date: April 20, 2023

**AGENDA ITEM 1**

**AGENDA SECTION: B**

(A – Consent, B – Discussion, C – Receive, Recognize/Present)

**ACTION REQUESTED: Discuss**

(Adopt, Approve, Discuss, Receive, etc.)

**TITLE AND SUBJECT:** Present and Discuss an Overview of the Fresno Unified Literacy Initiative

**ITEM DESCRIPTION:** Staff will present an overview of the district's new literacy initiative which will include the establishment of a literacy task force and campaign. In August 2023, Fresno Unified will launch a literacy initiative with an emphasis on reading on grade level by the end of first grade. Staff will share background, literacy practices, and key events leading to the launch. Educational partners are an essential component of the task force and will include community members, teachers, leaders, parents, and instructional assistants who will create an actionable plan in the following focus areas:

1. Preschool through Second Grade Classroom Instruction
2. High Quality Supports Beyond the Classroom
3. Family and Community Partnerships

The cross-departmental literacy planning team is utilizing the California Comprehensive State Literacy Plan as a guidance document for best practice in the field of literacy. In accordance with research by the California Department of Education, the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing and leading researchers in this area, concerted efforts will be made to promote the following:

1. A comprehensive literacy program that builds oral and written language. This includes components of listening, speaking, reading, and writing.
2. Adequate instructional time spent in the early years on foundational literacy skills that include print concepts, phonological awareness, letter-sound knowledge, phonics, decoding, and fluency.
3. Integrated and Designated English Language Development for students identified as English Language Learners.
4. Informed instruction based on assessment embedded within a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Framework for all learners including students with disabilities.

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY:** There is no fiscal impact to the district at this time.

**PREPARED BY:** Dr. Natasha Baker,  
Chief Academic Officer

**DIVISION:** Chief Academic Officer  
**PHONE NUMBER:** (559) 457-3731

**CABINET APPROVAL:** Dr. Natasha Baker,  
Chief Academic Officer

**SUPERINTENDENT APPROVAL:**





Fresno Unified  
School District



## Literacy Campaign Board Workshop

April 20, 2023

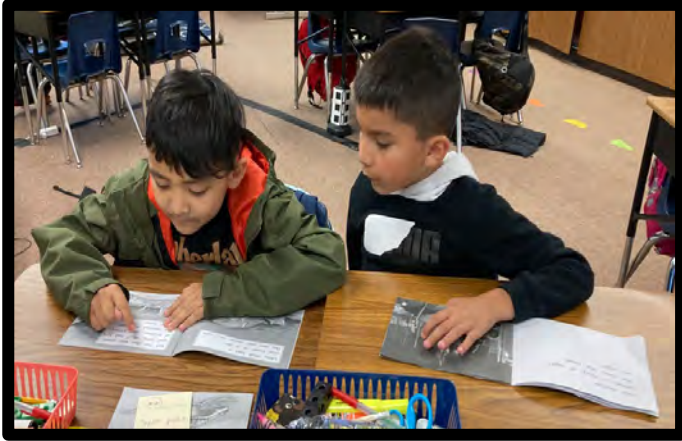




**The WHY  
of our collective work...**

**More than 70K Students  
Depending on Us**

# Our Rationale



“**READING**  
is the *most important skill*  
for success  
in school and society.  
Children who fail to learn to read  
will surely fail to reach their  
full potential.”

-S.L. Hall & L.C. Moats (1999)

# GOALS



## Student Goals



Improve  
academic  
performance at  
challenging levels



Expand  
student-centered  
and real-world  
learning experiences



Increase student  
engagement in  
their school and  
community



# Third Grade SBAC Literacy Data

School Year	ELA % Met/Exceeded
2018-19: Pre-Pandemic	39%
2021-22: Post-Pandemic* (*Smarter Balanced Adjusted Forms)	27%
<b>Pre-Pandemic to Post-Pandemic</b>	<b>-12%*</b>



# Why Now?

- Connects essential literacy guidance from state guidance documents
- Focuses on the age/grade band goals for literacy achievement
- Reports current disaggregated literacy achievement data
- Serves as a model for local literacy plans

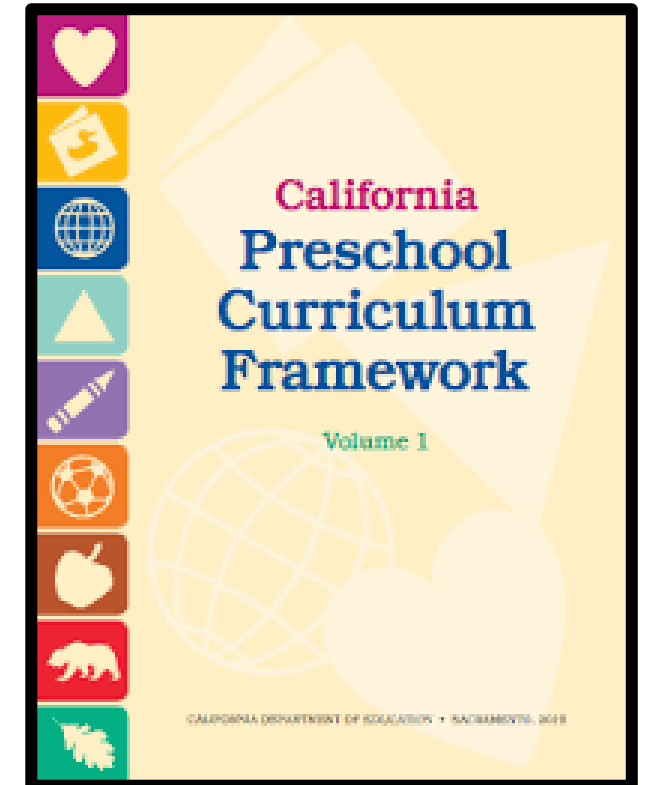
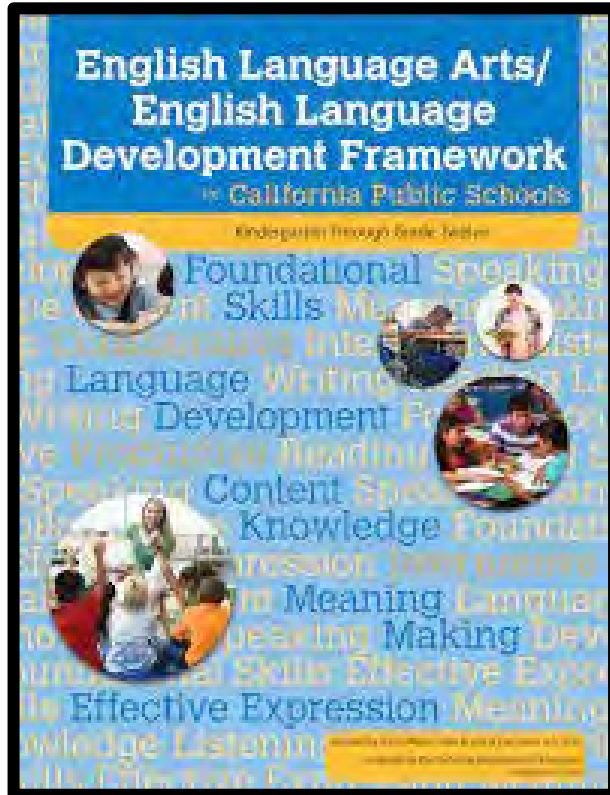


# What Now?

## Responding to the Pandemic

- Teaching and Learning at the FOREFRONT
- Directing Resources to Support Literacy Instruction
- Data & Assessment for Quality Improvements
- Training and Coaching for Teachers and Staff
- Partner with Community for Quality Recovery Supports
- Invest in Family Empowerment

# Standards and Frameworks- Everyone Owns Literacy

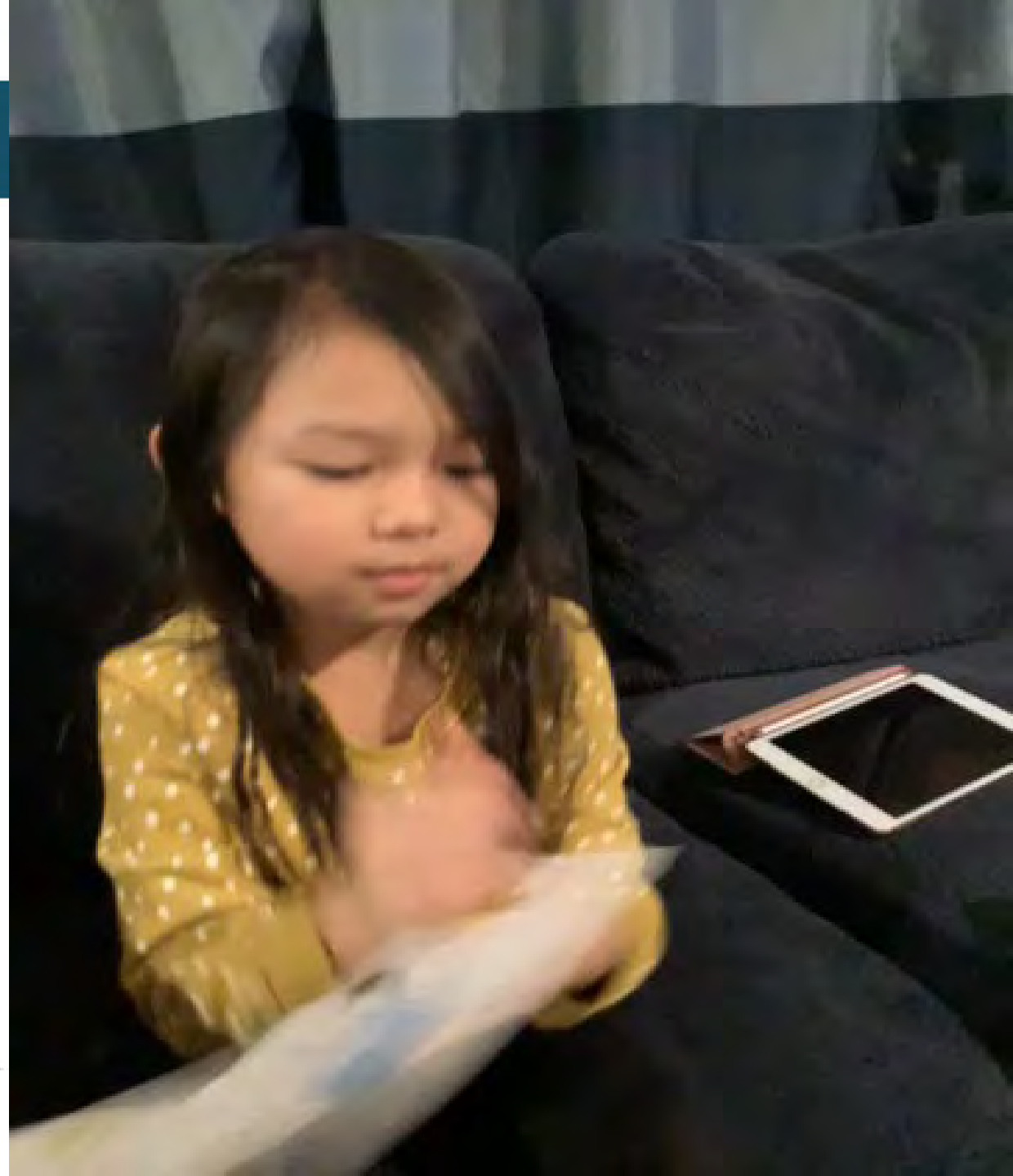


# An Attainable Goal

Lynsey,  
a kindergarten  
FUSD student

9

36 weeks  
180 days  
120 minutes of literacy per day





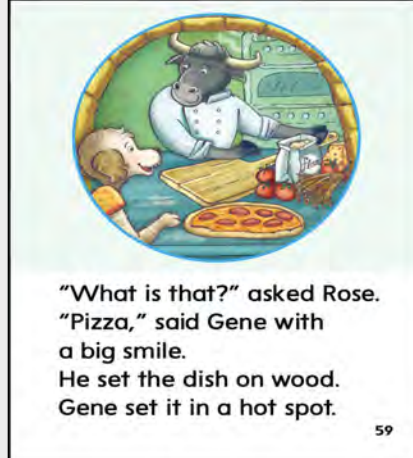
# 1st Grade Example

## Unit 1



**BEGINNING  
of the Year**

## Unit 3



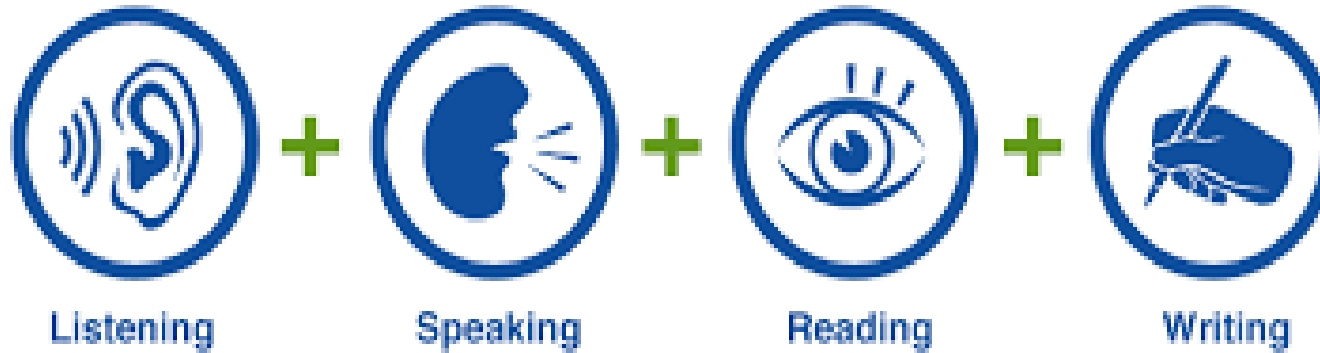
**MIDDLE  
of the Year**

## Unit 6



**END  
of the Year**

# What Will Literacy Look Like in Fresno Unified?



1. Oral and written language
2. Foundational literacy skills
3. Integrated and Designated English Language Development
4. Assessment within a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Framework

# Rigorous Instruction and Support Services

**Early Prevention  
and Intervention**

**Tier I**

**Targeted  
Intervention**

**Tier II**

**Intensive  
Intervention**

**Tier III**

# Supporting Our Students with Disabilities



Fresno Unified School District  
*Special Education*



- Language enriched environment
- Inclusive practices with access to core curriculum
- Least restrictive environment with supports





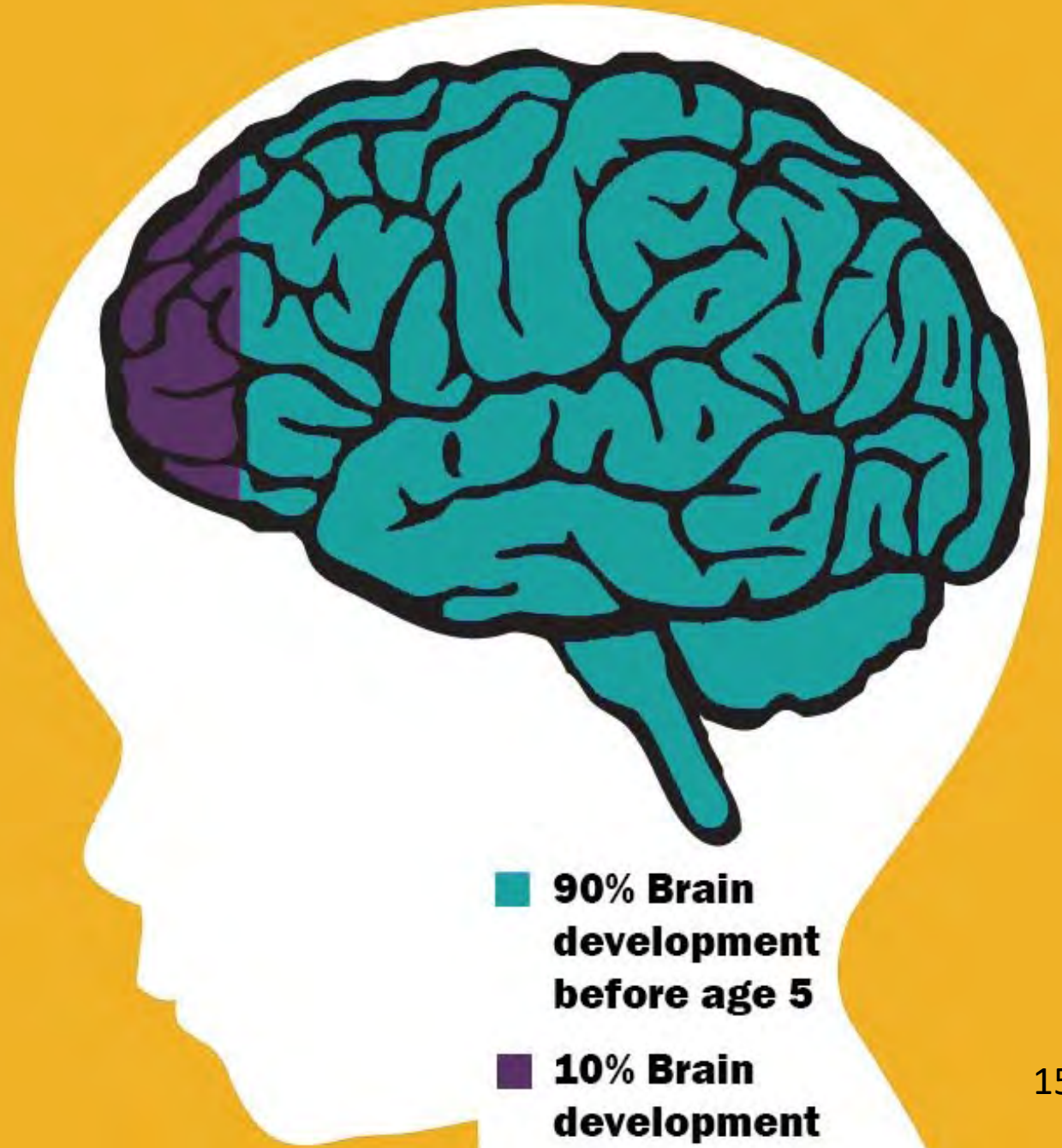
# PK to TK to K to 1<sup>st</sup> Grade



The progression *across* our earliest grades

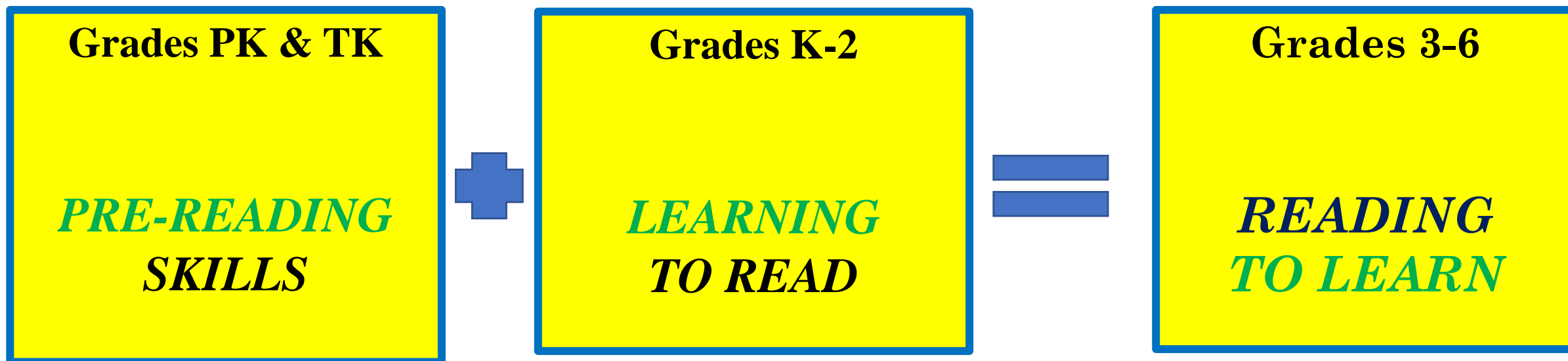
# 90%

of a child's brain  
development  
happens  
before age 5



Source: Harvard Center for the Developing Child

# *Intentional* Literacy Building: PK to 1<sup>st</sup> Grade



Learning, Practicing, and Applying

# CA ELA Standards: K-5

Reading Literary Text	Reading Informational Text	Reading Foundational Skills	Writing	Speaking & Listening	Language
10	10	4	8	6	6



# ~READING FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS~

## *The Four Domains*

<b>CONCEPTS OF PRINT</b>	<b>PHONOLOGICAL &amp; Phonemic AWARENESS</b>	<b>PHONICS &amp; Word Recognition</b>	<b>FLUENCY</b>
<b>PreK to 1<sup>st</sup> Grade</b>	<b>TK to 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade</b>	<b>PreK to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>K to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>

# Our Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum

- ✓ Reading
- ✓ Discussing
- ✓ Writing

The logo for 'Wonders' is displayed in a bold, yellow, 3D font with a red outline, set against a red oval background.The logo for 'Maravillas' is displayed in a bold, yellow, 3D font with a red outline, set against a red oval background.The logo for 'WonderWorks Intervention' is displayed in a bold, yellow, 3D font with a red outline, set against a red oval background. The word 'INTERVENTION' is written in smaller, blue, capital letters below the main text.The logo for 'unique learning system' features a stylized orange sun icon above the word 'unique' in a bold, dark blue font, with 'learning system' in a smaller, light blue font below it.The logo for the Fresno Unified School District features a blue graduation cap icon above the text 'Fresno Unified School District' in a blue font, with the tagline 'Achieving our Greatest Potential!' in a smaller, italicized blue font below it.

# How We Assess Literacy

PreK	TK	K
<b>DRDP</b>  Desired Results Developmental Profile  <b>Occurs 2 times a year</b>	<b>DRDP</b>  Desired Results Developmental Profile  <b>Occurs 2 times a year</b>	<b>FSA</b>  Foundational Skills Assessment  <b>Occurs 3 times a year</b>
	<b>TK Benchmark</b>  <b>Occurs 4 times a year</b>	<b>iReady</b>  <b>Occurs 3 times a year</b>

# K-3 iReady D2 Literacy To-Date

School Year	ELA % On or Above Grade Level
2019-20: Pre-Pandemic	33%
2020-21: School Closure/Virtual Learning	
2021-22	31%
2022-23	34%
<b>Pre-Pandemic to Present</b>	<b>+1%</b>
<b>1-Year Change (21-22 to 22-23)</b>	<b>+3%</b>



# State Literacy Data

- 58% of California students read below grade level in 3rd grade
- Among low-income students of color, **over 75%** read below grade level
- Only 1 California school district has over 50% of low-income Latinx students at grade level and none that have over 50% for low-income African American students
- Fresno Unified is currently ranked 148 out of 285 districts

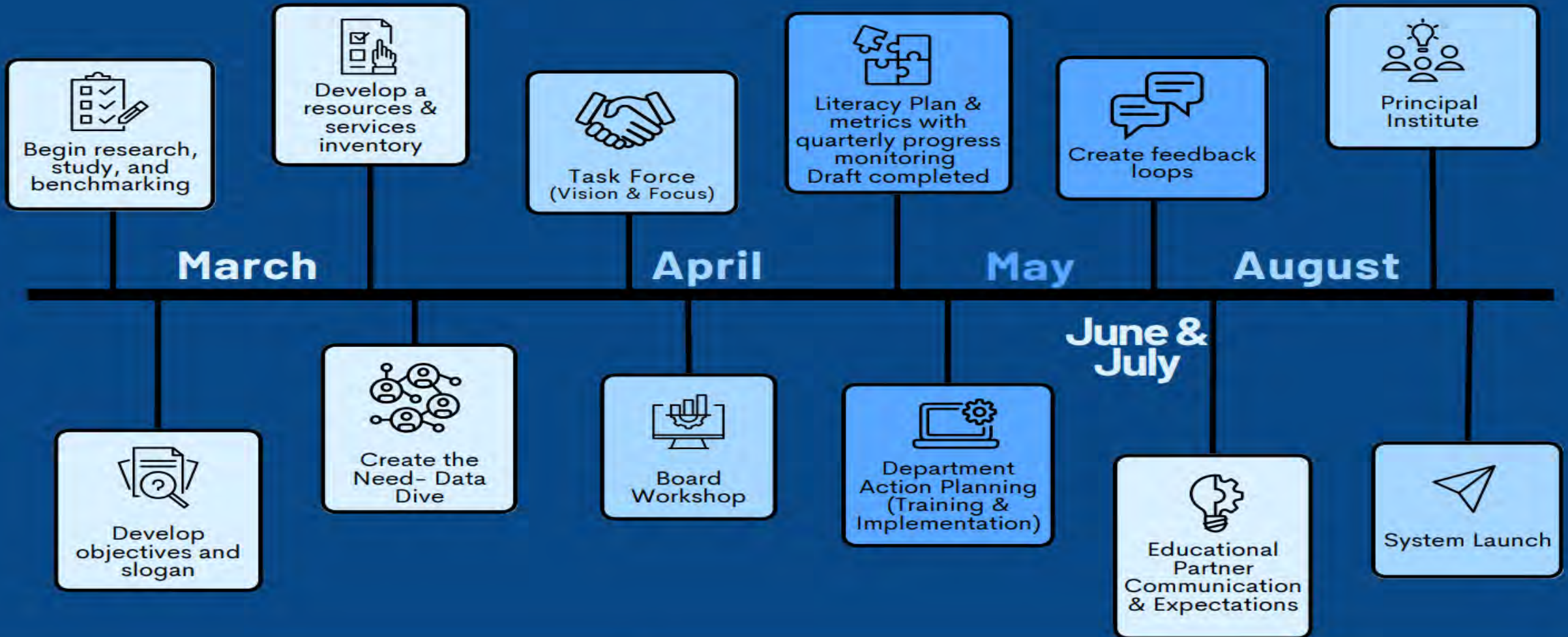
Data from the California Reading Coalition

# Next Steps

## Strategic System Moves

# Literacy Planning Team

Key Events Timeline  
March - August 2023



# The Literacy Planning Team's Year-to-Date Accomplishments

1. Read over fifty research articles, district plans, state guidance documents, and books on literacy to build the team's shared knowledge.
2. Attended two literacy sessions by Dr. Timothy Shanahan, previous president of the International Literacy Association and member of the Advisory Board of the National Institute for Literacy under Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama.
3. Attended the first annual Reading League Summit titled English Learners and Emergent Bilingual Students.
4. Attended three hours of weekly planning time with follow up homework that includes additional research and creating planning documents

# The Literacy Plan- 3 Pillars

**PK- 2  
Classroom  
Instruction**



**High Quality  
Supports**

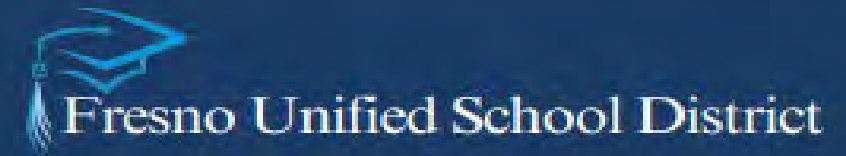


**Family &  
Community  
Partnerships**





# LITERACY TASK FORCE 2023



You are invited! Please attend all  
3 sessions.

## **SESSION 1 THURSDAY, APRIL 27**

Why now? Together we will  
provide background, define our  
purpose, and look at national,  
state, and local data.



# QUESTIONS