

Ypsilanti Community Schools Curriculum and Instruction School Success

Our goal is to provide a curriculum that contains rigor, highly quality instruction, intervention, assistive technology and individualized reading support for all students.



What Parents Should Know

Today's students are preparing to enter a world in which colleges and businesses are demanding more than ever before. To ensure all students are ready for success after high school, the Common Core State Standards establish clear, consistent guidelines for what

every student should know and be able to do in math and English language arts from kindergarten through 12th grade.

The standards were drafted by experts and teachers from across the country and are designed to ensure students are prepared for today's entry-level careers, freshman-level college courses, and workforce training programs. The Common Core focuses on developing the critical-thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills students will need to be successful. Forty-one states, including Michigan, the District of Columbia, four territories, and the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) have voluntarily adopted and are moving forward with the standards.

The new standards also provide a way for teachers to measure student progress throughout the school year and ensure that students are on the pathway to success in their academic careers.

READING

Lexia (Reading, K-5) - Supplemental ([To learn more, click here.](#))

Students work independently to develop critical reading and language skills through individualized, motivating learning paths. All students, regardless of their skill level, can each work at their own pace and the teacher is notified (on web-based reports and via email) only when they require support. These individualized learning paths, allow students to have the opportunity to accelerate beyond their grade-level skills, as they are given the ability to demonstrate proficiency in each skill area, and are advanced to the next level in the program if no instruction is needed.

For students in need of extra support, Lexia provides a level of scaffolding. If the

student still struggles, the program provides explicit instruction on the concepts and rules of the skill, allowing the student to demonstrate proficiency and then return to the scaffolded level and standard-level activities. Personalized instruction ensures that students receive the appropriate intensity and support to acquire the skills they need to become proficient readers.

DRA (Developmental Reading Assessment, K-6) - Core [\(To learn more, click here.\)](#)

The purpose of the Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA) is to determine a student's independent reading level, inform instruction, and monitor progress. After administering and interpreting the DRA teachers are able to match students to independent reading material that is within their *zone of proximal development*. This allows teachers to inform their approach to reading instruction.

Guided Reading (K-12) - Core [\(To learn more, click here.\)](#)

Guided reading is small-group **reading** instruction designed to provide differentiated teaching that supports students in developing **reading** proficiency. The small group model allows students to be taught in a way that is intended to be more focused on their specific needs, accelerating their progress.

WRITING

Lucy Calkins Writing (K-5) - Core [\(To learn more, click here.\)](#)

Lucy Calkins' groundbreaking performance assessments offer instructional tools to support continuous assessment, timely feedback, and clear goals tied to learning progressions that have been aligned with world-class standards. Originally published as part of the bestselling *Units of Study in Opinion/Argument, Information, and Narrative Writing*, grades K–8, *Writing Pathways* is ideal for writing workshop, but suitable for any writing instruction context or curriculum.

MAISA is also used for 6-12 writing instruction.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

MAISA (ELA Curriculum, K-12) - Core [\(To learn more, click here.\)](#)

This multi-year **MAISA** project resulted in a comprehensive K-12 curriculum that is aligned not only to the standards, but also across grades. The units are not scripts but are guidelines for teachers. Educators are encouraged to adapt the MAISA materials for their student population and context.

Teachers are empowered as leaders to design and deliver effective literacy instruction that facilitates student engagement and achievement. The shifting landscape of the 21st century places new demands on students, teachers, and schools, and impacts the definition of effective literacy instruction. MAISA supports literacy instruction that: **builds the communication and foundational literacy skills** (reading, writing, speaking, and listening) **of all learners**; uses culturally relevant materials in instruction so readers see themselves in texts; focuses on critical literacy so students, our future leaders, can identify and develop effective arguments, weigh evidence, determine bias,

and understand different perspectives; helps all students become proficient in the “new literacies”: visual, informational, digital, media, technological, and cultural literacy; helps students recognize the unique literacy demands of the different academic disciplines; and, develops, at grade-appropriate levels, the corresponding literacy practices needed to participate in these academic domains.

MAISA is also used for 6-12 writing instruction.

Read 180 (6-12) - Supplemental ([To learn more, click here.](#))

READ 180 is a blended learning intervention program building reading comprehension, academic vocabulary, and writing skills for struggling students in Grades 4 and up.

MATHEMATICS

Everyday Math (K-5) - Core ([To learn more, click here.](#))

Everyday Mathematics is a comprehensive Pre-K through Grade 6 mathematics program engineered for the Common Core State Standards. Everyday Mathematics is grounded in an extensive body of research into how children learn. The design of Everyday Mathematics ***allows children to gain an understanding of mathematical concepts and to develop a solid mathematical foundation.***

Reflex Math (K-8) - Supplemental ([To learn more, click here.](#))

Reflex Math is one of the most powerful resources available for math fact fluency.

The uniqueness that Reflex provides for students is the ability to be ***adaptive and individualized.*** Reflex continuously monitors each student's performance to create the optimal experience for every child. Teachers find that Reflex is easy to use, and it includes intuitive and powerful reporting. Educators have everything they need to easily monitor and support student progress.

The Reflex system combines research-proven methods and innovative technology to provide the most effective math fact fluency solution available. As a result, students find that Reflex Math is fun because it is game-based, and that motivates students to want to keep coming back for more opportunities to learn more about mathematics.

Engage New York (Math, 6-12) - Core ([To learn more, click here.](#))

The main design principles in the New York State Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS) for Mathematics standards are focus, coherence, and rigor. These principles require that, ***at each grade level, students and teachers focus their time and energy on fewer topics,*** in order to form deeper understandings, gain greater skill and fluency, and more robustly apply what is learned. Focus in the curriculum is meant to ***give students an opportunity to understand concepts and practice with them in order to reach a deep and fluent understanding.*** Coherence in the curriculum means progressions that span grade levels to build students' understanding of ever more sophisticated mathematical concepts and applications. Rigor means a combination of fluency exercises, chains of reasoning, abstract activities, and contextual activities

throughout the module.

Big Ideas (Math, 6-12) - Core [\(To learn more, click here.\)](#)

Big Ideas Math is a complete middle school math program developed with the Common Core Standards for Mathematical Content and Standards for Mathematical Practice as its foundation. ***It is the only program to offer multiple pathways through middle school mathematics.*** The Regular Pathway prepares students for Algebra 1 or Integrated 1 in 9th grade. The Compacted Pathway and Advanced Pathway are for accelerated learners who will progress on to Geometry or Integrated 2 in 9th grade. Big Ideas Math has been systematically developed using learning and instructional theory to ensure the quality of instruction. ***Students gain a deeper understanding of math concepts by narrowing their focus to fewer topics at each grade level.*** Students master content through inductive reasoning opportunities, engaging activities that provide deeper understanding, concise stepped-out examples, rich thought-provoking exercises, and a continual building on what has been previously taught.

Big Ideas Math delivers a unique and revolutionary curriculum providing a balanced instructional approach of discovery and direct instruction. This approach opens doors to abstract thought, reasoning, and inquiry as students persevere to answer the Essential Questions that drive instruction. Clearly stepped-out examples complete the lesson and provide students with the precise language and structure necessary to build mathematical understanding and proficiency. The unique teaching edition provides teachers with complete instructional support from a master teacher.

Math 180 (6-12) - Supplemental [\(To learn more, click here.\)](#)

MATH 180 is a math intervention program designed to address the needs of struggling students and their teachers equally, building students' confidence with mathematics and accelerating their progress to algebra.

SCIENCE

Foss Science (K-5) [\(To learn more, click here.\)](#)

FOSS (Full Option Science System) is a ***research-based science curriculum for grades K-8 developed at the Lawrence Hall of Science***, University of California, Berkeley. FOSS has evolved from a philosophy of teaching and learning that has guided the development of successful active-learning science curricula for more than 40 years. The FOSS Program bridges research and practice by providing tools and strategies to ***engage students and teachers in enduring experiences that lead to deeper understanding of the natural and designed worlds.***

IQWST (Middle School Science, 6-8) [\(To learn more, click here.\)](#)

IQWST® (Investigating and Questioning our World through Science and Technology), which ***transforms adolescents into scientists***, was developed over a decade by science education, literacy, and learning science specialists from the University of Michigan, Northwestern University, Michigan State University, and the Weizmann

Institute of Science, supported by funding from the National Science Foundation. ***Students investigate questions relevant to their lives by conducting investigations; collecting and analyzing data; developing and using models to explain phenomena, and engaging in argument from evidence, all in a literacy and discourse-rich environment.*** Lessons are organized into thematic units such as Can I Believe My Eyes? (Physical Science) and What's Going on Inside Me? (Life Science), that support students as they build understanding of core ideas in science as well as understanding and use of scientific practices. Students also pursue their own original questions in units that integrate the fundamentals of Physical Sciences, Life Science, and Earth & Space Science.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies Alive (4-12) [\(To learn more, click here.\)](#)

TCI's online *History Alive!* programs transform middle school social studies class into a multi-faceted learning experience. ***TCI lessons start with a big idea — Essential Question — and incorporate graphic notetaking, group work, and step-by-step discovery.*** Students are the center of instruction that taps a variety of learning styles, allowing students of all abilities to learn and succeed.

History Alive! The Ancient and Medieval Worlds (Michigan Edition) introduces students to the beginnings of the human story. Students discover the secrets of these ancient and medieval cultures that continue to influence the modern world

Scholastic Weekly Reader (K-2) [\(To learn more, click here.\)](#)

Every week *Scholastic News* brings teachers and students high-quality nonfiction on fascinating seasonal science and social studies themes. This engaging magazine has been specifically designed to help educators meet standards with a helpful Common Core toolkit and lesson plans, clear standards connections, and texts that increase in complexity as the year progresses.

Michigan History (3rd grade only) [\(To learn more, click here.\)](#)

This text book covers Michigan History, economics, geography, government, core democratic values.

DISTRICT Assessments

Reading, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies

NWEA/MAP (District Standardized Assessment, 1st -12) [\(To learn more, click here.\)](#)

NWEA delivers the insights that help students learn, teachers teach, and leaders lead.

NWEA is a proven assessment solution, that is based on a customized professional learning, and industry-leading research based model. The expectation that the assessment will keep districts ahead of the curve as times and standards change.

MAP® Growth™ measures what students know and informs what they're ready to

learn next. By dynamically adjusting to each student's responses, MAP Growth creates a personalized assessment experience that accurately measures performance. Timely, easy-to-use reports help teachers teach, students learn, and administrators lead.