

Office of Special Education

# Specialized Reading Instruction

Grades 7-12

FCPS offers secondary students who are reading significantly below grade level the opportunity to improve their reading skills through a variety of reading programs. Reading is a complex process. It involves the ability to sound out or recognize individual words, to read words accurately and quickly, to learn and use new words, and to understand what is read. Students benefit the most from programs that target their particular areas of need.

The following research-proven programs are the most commonly used to teach these skills in middle and high school special education reading classes. More information is available from the publishers, listed in italics after each program.

## Decoding and Word Recognition

Decoding is the ability to sound out words using knowledge of letter sounds and common word parts; word recognition is the ability to identify a word as a whole. Students typically use both skills when reading.

- For students whose skills are at or below a second grade reading level:
  - Edmark Reading Program, *Riverdeep*
  - Phonics for Reading, *Curriculum Associates*
  - Wilson Reading System, *Wilson Language Training*
  - SRA Reading Mastery, SRA Corrective Reading, *Scholastic*
- For students whose skills are at a third to sixth grade reading level:
  - Reading Accuracy Word Attack and Rate Development Strategies (REWARDS), *Sopris West*
  - REWARDS Plus: Reading Strategies Applied to Science and Social Studies Passages (high school only) , *Sopris West*
  - Wilson Reading System, *Wilson Language Training*
  - SRA Reading Mastery, SRA Corrective Reading, *Scholastic*

## Reading Fluency

Reading fluency is the ability to read words accurately at a reasonable rate. Readers with good silent reading fluency recognize words automatically and are able to focus on comprehension rather than sounding out individual words. Readers with good oral reading fluency read aloud with the same expression and rate used when speaking. Reading fluency is developed by providing instruction in oral reading fluency.

- For students reading at a first through eighth grade reading level:
  - Read Naturally, *Read Naturally*
  - The Six-Minute Solution, *Sopris West*

## Reading Comprehension

Reading comprehension is the ability to get meaning from text. Teachers use a variety of methods and materials to teach students reading comprehension skills such as visualizing, predicting, summarizing, inferring, clarifying and self-questioning. In addition, the following programs may be used:

- In middle schools
  - Thinking Reader, *Tom Snyder Productions*
  - Read 180, *Scholastic\**
- In high schools
  - REWARDS Plus, *Sopris West*
  - The Reading and Writing Source Book, *Great Source*

## Specialized Writing Instruction

Most students who receive special education services benefit from the writing instruction provided as part of the general education curriculum, which focuses on developing the six traits of writing targeted in the Virginia Standards of Learning:

- Ideas
- Voice
- Organization
- Sentence Fluency
- Word Choice
- Conventions

For more intensive writing remediation, students may receive instruction in the research-proven Sentence and/or Paragraph Writing Strategies developed as part of the Strategic Instruction Model (SIM) by the Center for Research on Learning at the University of Kansas. In addition, students may be encouraged to use graphic organizers called "Thinksheets," developed by Dr. Edwin Ellis, to help organize their ideas for writing. Every middle and high school has a site license to this collection of organizers.

Assistive Technology Services (ATS) also works with teachers and students to facilitate the use of technological aids to writing. These include software programs (in English) such as Write: OutLoud, Co:Writer, and Draft:Builder, all by *Don Johnston*, and Inspiration by *Inspiration Software, Inc.*