

Meghan Dunn
Superintendent



COMMUNITY SCHOOL
DISTRICT 13

Darlene Cameron, Ed.D.
Deputy Superintendent

Lisa H. Pilaski
Executive Director

Dear District 13 Community,

Happy New Year! 2024 brings renewed opportunity to strengthen our collaboration across District 13 and launch a new, exciting literacy curriculum. In May 2023, Chancellor Banks announced NYC Reads across New York City Public Schools (NYCPS). NYC Reads tasked Superintendents and school communities to work together to identify an evidenced based literacy curriculum to be implemented in the 2024/2025 school year. The image to the right details our journey as a district over the past six months to choose Expeditionary Learning (EL) as the new literacy curriculum for District 13. You can visit the District 13 website (www.d13brooklyn.com) to view this information more in depth.

There were many steps that led to this decision. District 13 conducted focus groups and surveyed parents, students, teachers and school leaders on styles of learning and what they look for in curricula. The District Team and school leaders visited schools currently implementing different curricula and spoke with leaders and teachers about their experiences. In addition, we invited publishers to present their curricula to the District Team and school leaders, allowing us to review and determine the closest alignment to our shared values and beliefs. We want to thank all the members of the District 13 Community who participated in our curricular selection process. We value your input.

After careful consideration and discussion, District 13 chose Expeditionary Learning as a rich concept-based curriculum that will encourage critical thinking and a love of reading and writing. To learn about EL, you can start by accessing a video overview of the curriculum [here](#). Then, you can begin your exploration of EL via a demo of the program [here](#).

Beginning this month, school leaders and teachers will embark on an extensive series of professional learning sessions to develop expertise in Expeditionary Learning supported by both NYCPS and District 13. The District 13 Team will be working with school leaders and teachers to unpack the Expeditionary Learning curriculum in preparation for teaching a unit of EL in the Spring Semester, launching the full curriculum starting in September 2024.

Our goal is to foster proficiency and a love of reading and writing in all District 13 students giving them every opportunity for future success.

In partnership,

Meghan Dunn

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Superintendent Community School District 13

New York City Public Schools

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OUR LITERACY STORY

HOW DISTRICT 13 SELECTED A CURRICULUM



NYC READS ANNOUNCED
MAY 2023
Mayor Eric Adams and Chancellor David Banks announce the launch of the NYC Reads Initiative. District 13 is identified as a Phase 2 participant of this two-year initiative.

PARTNER SELECTION
AUGUST 2023
District 13 begins collaborating with Teaching Lab, and develops a plan to include the entire D13 community in the process.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
AUGUST-NOVEMBER 2023
Teaching Lab prioritizes our students' strengths and needs with a culturally responsive lens by gathering feedback from caregivers, school leaders, students, and teachers through surveys, focus groups, and classroom observations.

CURRICULUM IN ACTION
OCTOBER 2023
With diverse student needs in mind, District 13 stakeholders visit other districts where the curricula are already in use to witness them in action.

GUIDED BY DATA
DECEMBER 2023
Teaching Lab's analysis of the Assets & Needs Assessment data establishes guiding principles to help select the curriculum that maximizes strengths and addresses areas for improvement.

D13 LEADERSHIP ANALYSIS
District 13 Leadership team unpacks a unit of EL and Wit & Wisdom to evaluate the compatibility of the content, structure, and design of each curriculum with the district's guiding principles.

D13 PRINCIPALS' ANALYSIS
Representatives from EL and Wit & Wisdom presented to District 13 Principals about their curriculum, and afterwards, the principals discussed and analyzed the data to determine strengths, needs, and alignment with the district's guiding principles.

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAMS
District 13 Principals discuss the Assets & Needs Assessment with school leadership teams to understand the context, vision, and priorities, enabling a detailed examination of the district's strengths, needs, and guiding principles.

CURRICULUM ANNOUNCEMENT
JANUARY 2023
District 13 announces the selection of EL Education as its literacy curriculum and begins planning for implementation support.