



## **Riverview School District Pilots New Reading and ELA Materials**

Riverview School District has embarked on an exciting initiative this spring, piloting new reading and English Language Arts (ELA) materials for students in grades 3 through 5. The materials, developed by Benchmark Advance, are currently undergoing a field test that began in early March and will extend through late April.

The decision to test these materials stemmed from the thorough evaluation process conducted by the district's Social Studies and Reading Materials Selection Committee, which includes teachers from each grade level and parent volunteers. The committee ultimately chose Benchmark Advance due to its comprehensive offerings, which include rich and engaging content for students, extensive support for diverse learning needs, and robust word study components like grammar, spelling, and vocabulary.

These materials were noted for their ability to integrate seamlessly with science and social studies topics, enhancing the interdisciplinary approach to learning that Riverview School District values. Additionally, the resources provide tailored instructional support for teachers, ensuring that the materials can be effectively used in the classroom to benefit student learning.

During the field test period, at least one teacher from each grade level at every school is implementing ELA units to evaluate how these materials work in a real classroom setting. This test aims to identify any potential challenges in implementation, understand the needs that may arise when using these materials, and determine the level of support required for effective and sustainable use across the district's elementary schools.

Kristin Edlund, Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning at Riverview School District, emphasized the importance of this pilot program: "This field test is crucial for us to see firsthand how these materials meet our students' needs and support our teachers' instructional strategies. We are looking forward to gathering insights that will guide our decision-making process."

Following the conclusion of the field test, the committee will review the outcomes and make a recommendation to the Instructional Materials Committee (IMC). The IMC will then evaluate whether to propose these materials for adoption by the School Board.

Parents and community members with questions or who wish to learn more about the field test are encouraged to reach out to Kristin Edlund at the district office. This pilot program represents a proactive step by Riverview School District to enhance the academic experience and meet the educational needs of all students in the critical 3rd to 5th grade years.