

Butler Academy
South Carolina Department of Education
Read to Succeed Elementary Exemplary Literacy Reflection Tool

Directions: Please provide a narrative response for Sections A-I.

LETRS Questions:

- How many eligible teachers in your school have completed Volume 1 ONLY of LETRS?: **2**
- How many eligible teachers in your school have completed Volumes 1 and 2 of LETRS?: **4**
- How many eligible teachers in your school are beginning Volume 1 of LETRS this year (or have not yet started or completed Volume 1)?: **5**

- How many teachers in your school are beginning Volume 2 of LETRS this year? **0**
- How many CERDEP PreK teachers in your school have completed EC LETRS? **NA**
- How many CERDEP PreK teachers in your school are beginning EC LETRS this year? **NA**

Section A: Describe how reading assessment and instruction for all PreK-5th grade students in the school includes oral language, phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension to aid in the comprehension of texts to meet grade-level English/Language Arts standards.

All students take i-Ready three times a year, which assesses phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension—the five pillars of reading instruction. This data provides individualized learning paths and informs small-group instruction for all students. Instruction is grounded in evidence-based, Science of Reading practices. All Kindergarten through 3rd grade students receive 30 minutes of Foundations daily, a comprehensive, research-based program that addresses word study, phonics, spelling, and writing skills. Students in K–2 also participate in daily Heggerty phonological awareness lessons (10 minutes) and Geodes (30 minutes), which integrate rich content knowledge with decoding practice to support comprehension of complex texts. In addition, Kindergarten through 2nd grade students are assessed on reading accuracy, fluency, and comprehension, with identified 3rd grade scholars also assessed as needed.

Section B: Document how Word Recognition assessment and instruction for PreK-5th grade students are further aligned to the Science of Reading, structured literacy and foundational literacy skills.

Word Recognition assessment and instruction for K-5th grade students are intentionally aligned to the Science of Reading, structured literacy, and the development of foundational literacy skills. Our core ELA curriculum, Wit & Wisdom, emphasizes how elements of language comprehension connect with word recognition skills to build strong, proficient readers. In the earlier grades, students explicitly develop phonological awareness, decoding, and sight recognition of high-frequency words. Vocabulary is taught through both direct and implicit instruction, with each lesson including a 15-minute “deep dive” focused on vocabulary and language structures.

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To strengthen word recognition and decoding, Kindergarten-2nd grade students receive daily instruction with Heggerty, which provides systematic, explicit practice in phonological and phonemic awareness. K-2 teachers also use the Geodes small group curriculum as a way to bridge the comprehension focus of Wit & Wisdom with the phonological awareness taught through Foundations. All Kindergarten-3rd grade students participate in Foundations, a structured literacy program grounded in scientific reading research. Foundations systematically addresses phonics, spelling, word study, and handwriting, ensuring students master the foundational skills required for fluent reading and comprehension. When utilized together, these programs are designed to provide explicit, sequential instruction in phonological awareness and phonics, supporting the development of accurate, automatic word recognition and a strong foundation for lifelong literacy.

Section C: Document how the school uses universal screener data and diagnostic assessment data to determine targeted pathways of intervention (word recognition or language comprehension) for students in PreK-5th grade who have failed to demonstrate grade-level reading proficiency.

All K-5th grade students complete MAP Growth Reading and i-Ready Reading at the beginning of the school year as universal screeners. These assessments provide comprehensive data on both word recognition and language comprehension skills, helping us identify students' strengths and areas for growth. Results are analyzed within the first two and a half weeks of school, allowing the MTSS team and ELA teachers to determine targeted pathways of intervention. For students who do not demonstrate grade-level proficiency, diagnostic data is used to pinpoint whether the greatest need is in word recognition (phonological awareness, phonics, decoding, and fluency) or in language comprehension (vocabulary and higher-level understanding of texts).

Students then receive Tier I and Tier II supports aligned to their specific needs. Some of the programs used for Tier I and Tier II supports are UFLI and Orton-Gillingham. Targeted small-group interventions occur at least three times per week, led by either the classroom ELA teacher or a reading interventionist. Instruction is explicitly designed to address the identified skill gaps—whether in phonics and decoding or in vocabulary and comprehension—ensuring students make progress toward grade-level reading proficiency. Importantly, intervention and enrichment plans are created for *all* scholars: those performing below grade level receive intensive support, while those performing above grade level are provided with opportunities to extend their learning alongside peers at similar levels.

Our school uses universal screener and diagnostic data, such as MAP, to identify specific areas of need and determine whether students require targeted interventions in word recognition or language comprehension.

Section D: Describe the system in place to help parents in your school understand how they can support the student as a reader and writer at home.

Our school has a structured system to help parents understand how they can support their child as a reader and writer at home. Four weeks into the first quarter, we hold our initial family-teacher conferences, which are specifically designed to review i-Ready, MAP Growth, and other reading data. Families review their child's reports during the conference and have the opportunity to ask questions. During the conference, teachers walk parents

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through each section of the reports, highlighting the child's performance compared to grade-level expectations and peers, areas of strength, and areas of need. For example, we may explain, "Your child is on grade level in vocabulary but is still below grade level in comprehending informational texts." We also review writing samples and other assignments, such as exit tickets, to provide a fuller picture of the student's progress.

Following each individualized discussion, parents are provided with resources to support literacy at home. These include parent guides for understanding our reading curriculum, access to student workbooks when available, word lists, fluency passages, and targeted materials aligned to their child's grade level. Teachers also point out resources available through NWEA reports and recommend websites that parents can explore with their children. In addition to these formal conferences, teachers maintain ongoing dialogue with families, offering practical strategies for building reading fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension, as well as ways to support writing development at home. This consistent communication ensures that families are equipped with both the data and the tools to help their child grow as a reader and writer.

In addition to the data meetings that teachers have with families, our school also hosts family events to foster literacy development and strengthen partnerships with families. Each year, we host Family Literacy Night, which is an opportunity for families to engage in literacy-rich activities with their scholars. We also host an annual Kindergarten Parent Workshop to illuminate ways that families can help their kindergarten-aged children develop foundational literacy skills at home.

Section E: Document how the school provides for the monitoring of reading achievement and growth at the classroom and school level with decisions about PreK-5th grade intervention based on all available data to ensure grade-level proficiency in reading.

Reading achievement and growth are closely monitored at both the classroom and school level to ensure all K-5th grade students progress toward grade-level proficiency. At the classroom level, teachers regularly administer phonics, fluency, and comprehension screeners in small groups. These ongoing checks for understanding guide daily instruction and inform decisions about flexible small-group placements, as well as which students may require additional intervention beyond core instruction.

At the school level, our MTSS team—which includes academic deans, the MTSS coordinator, the Director of Literacy, interventionists, and reading teachers—meets regularly to analyze multiple data points. These include beginning-of-year (BOY) universal screening results, 6- to 9-week progress monitoring data, and benchmark assessments throughout the year. During quarterly meetings, the team reviews whether students identified for support are making sufficient growth, whether interventions should be intensified or shifted to Tier III, and whether students are ready to exit pull-out services. The team also uses data to identify new students in need of intervention and to create documented plans of support.

By combining classroom-based data with school-wide monitoring, we ensure that instructional decisions and intervention placements are responsive, targeted, and aligned with each student's path toward grade-level reading proficiency.

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Section F: Explain how the school will provide teacher training based in the Science of Reading, structured literacy, and foundational literacy skills to support reading achievement for all students.

To ensure all students achieve reading proficiency, our school provides teacher training grounded in the Science of Reading, structured literacy, and foundational literacy skills. A key component of this plan is LETRS training for all K-3 teachers. Implementation began in the 2024–25 school year, with the first cohort completing Volume 1 and currently finishing Volume 2. LETRS training is ongoing, ensuring that additional teachers are developing deep knowledge of the components of effective reading instruction, including phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

In addition to LETRS, teachers engage in ongoing professional learning to strengthen literacy instruction. This includes monthly workshops focused on best practices in structured literacy, quarterly professional learning opportunities aligned to school-wide goals, and weekly PLCs where teachers collaborate to analyze data, refine instructional strategies, and plan targeted interventions. Together, these training opportunities build teacher expertise in evidence-based practices, ensuring instruction in every classroom is aligned with the science of reading and designed to accelerate achievement for all students.

Section G: Analysis of Data

Strengths	Possibilities for Growth
• The use of multiple data points to determine the strengths and needs of each scholar • The use of research and science-based curricula and intervention resources in all classes and at every grade level • Having a strong team who meets regularly to disaggregate data and make instructional, intervention, and enrichment decisions multiple times a year. • The percentage of scholars DNM on SCReady in 3rd grade decreased from 27.2% in 2024 to 13% in 2025 and to 6.8% in 2026. • The percentage of scholars Meets and Exceeds in grades 3rd-5th increased from 51.5% in 2024 to 60% in 2025 to 65% in 2026.	• Support non-ELA teachers to better meet our scholars' needs in other literacy rich environments. • Strengthening our partnership with families and other stakeholders to support our literacy goals and initiatives. • Increase individualized instruction for students scoring Approaches.

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Section H: Previous School Year SMART Goals and Progress Toward Those Goals

- Please provide your school's goals from last school year and the progress your school has made towards these goals. Utilize quantitative and qualitative data to determine progress toward the goal (s). As a reminder, all schools serving third grade were required to use Goal #1 (below).

Goal 1 - 2026 Increase the percentage of third graders scoring Meets and Exceeds in the spring of 2025 as determined by SC Ready from 60% to 66% in the spring of 2026.	Progress <table><tr><td>2023</td><td colspan="2">Actual - 32.4%</td></tr><tr><td>2024</td><td colspan="2">Actual - 42.9%</td></tr><tr><td>2025</td><td colspan="2">Actual - 60%</td></tr><tr><td>2026</td><td colspan="2">Actual - 57%</td></tr></table> We did not meet our goal for 3rd grade scholars Meets and Exceeds for this school year.	2023	Actual - 32.4%		2024	Actual - 42.9%		2025	Actual - 60%		2026	Actual - 57%	
2023	Actual - 32.4%												
2024	Actual - 42.9%												
2025	Actual - 60%												
2026	Actual - 57%												
Goal 2 - 2026 Reduce the percentage of third graders scoring at the DNM level in the spring of 2025 as determined by SC Ready from 13% to 11.7% in the spring of 2026.	Progress <table><tr><td>2023</td><td>BASELINE</td><td>Actual - 42.5%</td></tr><tr><td>2024</td><td>Goal - 38%</td><td>Actual - 30.2 %</td></tr><tr><td>2025</td><td>Goal - 27.2%</td><td>Actual - 13%</td></tr><tr><td>2026</td><td>Goal - 11.7%</td><td>Actual - 6.8%</td></tr></table> We surpassed our goal for 3rd grade scholars DNM for this school year.	2023	BASELINE	Actual - 42.5%	2024	Goal - 38%	Actual - 30.2 %	2025	Goal - 27.2%	Actual - 13%	2026	Goal - 11.7%	Actual - 6.8%
2023	BASELINE	Actual - 42.5%											
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2025	Goal - 27.2%	Actual - 13%											
2026	Goal - 11.7%	Actual - 6.8%											

Section I: Current SMART Goals and Action Steps Based on Analysis of Data

- All schools serving students in third grade MUST respond to the third-grade reading proficiency goal. Schools that do not serve third grade students may choose a different goal. Schools may continue to use the same SMART goals from previous years or choose new goals. Goals

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should be academically measurable. The Reflection Tool may be helpful in determining action steps to reach an academic goal. Schools are strongly encouraged to incorporate goals from the strategic plan.

Goal 1	Action Steps
Increase the percentage of third graders scoring Meets and Exceeds in the spring of 2026 as determined by SC Ready from 57% to 63% in the spring of 2027.	1. Use Fall 2026 BOY data to identify scholars who are projected to be Approaches based on MAP. Provide individualized instruction for these scholars through pullout services and/or in class small groups. 2. Provide a grade level assistant to support small group instruction and give students more time with direct individualized instruction. 3. Provide targeted support for students who are projected to be Meets but whose RIT score shows they may only be a few points away from Approaches. Use i-Ready lessons and small group time to reinforce skills that scholars have not mastered. 4. Invite scholars' parents to be a part of the conversation to discuss how the school and family can partner to ensure these scholars read at home and practice word recognition, fluency and vocabulary.

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Goal 2	Action Steps
Reduce the percentage of third graders scoring at the DNM level in the spring of 2026 as determined by SC Ready from 6.8% to 6.1% in the spring of 2027.	1. Use Fall 2026 BOY data to identify scholars who are projected to be DNM, based on MAP. Provide individualized intervention for these scholars through pullout services and in class small groups. 2. Provide targeted support for students who are projected to be Approaches but whose RIT score shows they may only be a few points away from DNM. Use i-Ready lessons to reinforce skills that scholars have not mastered. 3. Invite scholars' parents to be a part of the conversation to discuss how the school and family can partner to ensure these scholars read at home and practice word recognition, fluency and vocabulary.