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# WICOMICO COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## DIVISION OF INSTRUCTION

### Department of Curriculum and Professional Development

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

To meet the literacy needs of all middle school students, there are four levels of Middle School English/Language Arts available to our students. Student placement will be determined by student achievement. Below is a description of each level, as well as a chart listing the criteria that will be used for appropriate student placement.

<b>Course Description:</b> Students will develop literacy skills through the integration of reading, writing, listening, speaking, language, and vocabulary. Instruction is aligned with Maryland's College and Career Ready Standards. Each quarter students will read literary (novels, short stories, poetry, etc.) and informational texts (articles, autobiographies, websites, etc.) and write argumentative, informative, and narrative pieces. Program implementation involves direct, explicit instruction of reading and writing strategies and skills.	
<b>ADVANCED CORE ELA:</b> **Overall placement must be above or late grade level on iReady or meet the following criteria: a. MCAP PL4 Distinguished b. A in class	Instruction will include above grade level standards and above grade level text. Due to the extensive amount of reading and writing, this level is intended for students that are independent, self-motivated learners. Students will be required to synthesize information from a volume of texts.
<b>EXTENDED CORE ELA:</b> **Overall placement must be mid-grade level on iReady or meet all of the following criteria: a. MCAP PL3 or PL4 b. A or B in class c. Early on grade level on iReady	Instruction will include grade level standards and above grade level text. This level is intended for students reading above grade level. Students will be required to synthesize information from multiple texts.
<b>CORE ELA:</b> **Overall placement must be Early/on grade level on iReady	Instruction will include grade level standards and grade level text. This level is intended for students reading at grade level. Students will be required to synthesize information from paired texts.
<b>CORE ELA INTERVENTION:</b> <b>Recommendation:</b> 2 or more grade levels below unless students have a PL 3 or 4 on MCAP and a grade of A or B in the class.	Instruction will include grade level standards and grade level text, as well as instructional level standards and instructional level text. Students will be instructed in both whole group and small group settings. This level is intended for students reading below grade level. Comprehension, decoding, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and writing will be addressed.

### Placement of Criteria

Course	iReady Level	MCAP Level	Class Grade	Recommendation Yes or No
<b>ADVANCED CORE ELA</b> **Overall placement must be above or late grade level on iReady <b>OR</b> meet the following criteria: <i>a. MCAP PL4 Distinguished</i> <i>b. A in class</i>				
<b>EXTENDED CORE ELA</b> **Overall placement must be mid-grade level on iReady <b>OR</b> meet all of the following criteria: <i>a. MCAP PL3 or PL4</i> <i>b. A or B in class</i> <i>c. Early on grade level on iReady</i>				
<b>CORE ELA</b> **Overall placement must be Early/on grade level on iReady				
<b>Core ELA Intervention</b> Recommendation: 2 or more grade levels below unless students have a PL 3 or 4 on MCAP and a grade of A or B in the class.				

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact your school guidance counselor, school administrator, or Lisa Austin King (Supervisor of Secondary ELA) at 410-677-4576.

Sincerely,

*Lisa Austin King*

Lisa Austin King  
Supervisor of Secondary English Language Arts