

February 10, 2023

Donald R. Kennedy, Sr.
Superintendent of Schools

Board of Trustees

Mrs. Pamela McKinney, Chair
75 Calhoun Street
Charleston, SC 29401

Mrs. Carlotte Bailey, Vice Chair
75 Calhoun Street
Charleston, SC 29401

Mr. Keith Grybowski
75 Calhoun Street
Charleston, SC 29401

Mr. Ed Kelley
75 Calhoun Street
Charleston, SC 29401

Mrs. Darlene Roberson
75 Calhoun Street
Charleston, SC 29401

Dr. Carol Tempel
75 Calhoun Street
Charleston, SC 29401

Ms. Courtney Waters
75 Calhoun Street
Charleston, SC 29401

Ms. Leah Whatley
75 Calhoun Street
Charleston, SC 29401

Principals:

Thank you for your support and diligence as we implement the EL curriculum.

A committee of teachers and coaches was recently formed and tasked with an internal review of EL curriculum materials. As some parents have shared feedback and concerns about some topics they believe are sensitive and/or controversial, the committee was charged with identifying the potential for such in the EL curriculum. One example of potentially sensitive or controversial material that was identified by the committee was found in third grade module 3 which explores the text *Peter Pan* as an example of classic literature viewed through a historical context.

Ultimately, I value the discretion of educators in making instructional decisions within their classroom while ensuring that curriculum is not watered-down. As recommended by the [AdvancED Performance Accreditation Report](#), we must have a “*well-articulated curriculum that is aligned vertically and horizontally.*”

The review committee has compiled a list of modules that contain components some stakeholders may find sensitive or controversial; they are listed below. Administrators and coaches should be aware of this potential and develop a school-based process to work collaboratively with teachers in using professional discernment to modify/adjust/revise materials/curricula when necessary; decisions must be approved by principals and should happen *only* when sensitive material exists. Associate superintendents should be made aware when such decisions have been made.

Examples of modifications could include substituting one text for another, removing supplemental text(s) from the recommended list from classroom libraries, omitting or reducing discussions around certain sensitive topics, or rewriting provided essays, etc.

Specific to *Peter Pan*, for example, school leaders or classroom teachers may choose to omit pieces of module 3 or make necessary changes to individual lessons in order to confidently deliver the highest quality instruction.

Modules

Kindergarten-*Brave Irene* text; please exclude

Grade 3 - Module 3

Grade 4 - Modules 3 and 4

Grade 5 - Modules 1 and 3

Grade 7 - Module 3

Grade 8 - Modules 1, 3, and 4

Also important to note is that the committee found no potential for sensitive or controversial topics in grades one (1), two (2) and six (6).

Please do not hesitate to contact Anita Huggins or other district level leaders should you wish to discuss, ask questions, or collaborate around this work. They are here to provide support and guidance as needed.

Sincerely,



Don Kennedy