

## Literacy Secondary 6-12 grades

.....District Philosophy The success of every student is the goal and responsibility of members of our learning community. To achieve this goal, it is necessary to identify the knowledge skills, and characteristics graduates need to function as individuals and responsible, contributing members of their families, communities and society. The Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) expectation is that graduates will be prepared to succeed in the work force, post-secondary education, and further specialized training. The APS focus on literacy supports all students achieving to their highest potential.

.....Definition The Albuquerque Public School district defines literacy as: “The development and use of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and thinking skills to construct meaning in order to communicate effectively with a variety of individuals for a variety of purposes”

.....Components An effective literacy program for secondary level school has several important components. First, it depends upon support and commitment at both the district and school levels. It also depends upon content area teachers who are willing to teach not only content but also the process of learning. It also depends upon the support of specialists and on community involvement. An effective program is guided by learning strategies rather than materials and integrates all four of the language arts areas (listening, speaking, reading, writing) during instruction. Such a program also contains a recreational reading program and is supported and encourage through staff development. In all, an effective secondary literacy program is a school-wide program that involves both content teachers and specialists and aims at preparing students to meet the demands of the secondary school classroom.

What does it look like?

- Positive school culture
- Inquiry-based learning
- Integrated curriculum
- Opportunities for success
- Empowerment

Components of a successful secondary literacy program

- Facilitates the language development of students
- Focuses on the process of learning
- Integrates the language arts
- Provides strategy-based instruction across the curriculum
- Sustains a recreational and read aloud program

.....District Framework The Albuquerque Public Schools District Literacy Framework include the following components:

- Essential Elements—District Core Curriculum; standards, benchmarks, curriculum objectives, competencies, course descriptions (including broad content and sequential order)
- Assessment—Comprehensive assessment system including classroom, district and state mandated assessments
- Content Knowledge—Content reading instruction, comprehension and reading and writing process
- Instructional Strategies—High academic and behavior standards; Consistent, enriched, varied, differentiated instruction; integration of technology; lower student to adult ratios.
- Instructional Materials—Aligned with core competencies; established selection criteria; flexible allocation of resources; planned for meeting needs of all students.
- Professional Development—Strategic, focused and impacts instruction.
- Home/School Connection—Family literacy and involvement.

.....Strategies to Support Students Efforts to support students who are having difficulty reaching standards:

- 1) Each school has tutoring or intervention programs that use assessment information to plan specific activities and strategies for individual students.
- 2) Extended Learning, Intersession—A remediation model for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders, targeted to start January, 2001 for students who fail English or Math semester I. Each of the 11 traditional high schools will receive funding for 2 teachers to work with 18-20 students each to remediate semester I of English.
- 3) Extended Learning, Summer School—opportunities for all high schools students to take required courses for credit. Middle School students may choose to attend language Arts or mathematics classes.
- 4) Some schools have programs that help incoming students who are behind make a transition to the next level; to middle school or high school.

If you are concerned about your student's performance/or other concerns contact your students teacher and principal. They can provide you with information and/or refer you to other organizations for support or help you resolve the issue.

For those who are unable to find help/resolution at the school level may contact the districts, "Service Center" at 842-3742.

.....Links to other sites of interest

- State Department of Education-<http://www.sde.state.nm.us/>  
Has information on language arts standards, professional development and teacher licensure. This site also has information on how individual schools are doing in relation to performance.
- Albuquerque Public Schools-<http://www.aps.edu/>  
Has information on language arts standards, curriculum links of strategies and resources and information on individual school home pages.

ERIC (Educational Resources Information Center--  
<mailto:askeric@ericir.syr.edu>) Has an extensive database covering a multitude of topics. Send in your questions on any educational topic or research the database.

- U.S. Department of Education—<http://www.ed.gov/>  
This site will lead you to numerous resources within the Department of Education. You can find tips for community involvement, department initiatives, publicized activities, publications, videos, programs, offices and general information.