

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY

INFORMATIONAL REPORT

DECISION ON ACTION REPORT FROM THE GENERAL CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MIDDLE SCHOOL WRITING CURRICULUM

April 24, 2023

Background Information:

The elementary writing program was updated to align to the standards, and the Units of Study in Writing was adopted district-wide grades K-5. During the 19-20 school year, Bel Air Middle School and Edgewood Middle School became early adopters of the Units of Study in Writing program for 6th grade. During the 20-21 school year, North Harford adopted the program for 6th grade and Edgewood Middle expanded the program to 7th grade.

During the 21-22 school year, the program was expanded to include 7th grade at Bel Air Middle and 8th grade at Edgewood Middle and was adopted at Magnolia Middle in 7th grade. During the 22-23 school year, the Units of Study in Writing expanded to all middle schools in 6th grade language arts and also to Magnolia Middle in 8th grade, and to 7th grade at Patterson Mill Middle.

Feedback from students, teachers and administrators has shown a positive impact on writing. Students have more stamina and motivation to write, and teachers have indicated that the program has improved their pedagogy in the teaching of writing.

Continuing this trend and learning experience into all middle schools is essential in continuing to build students' writing skills and consistency across the district. The Units of Study in Middle School is a program that would support instruction and continue the writing practices students learned in elementary school to now meet the middle school writing standards.

Discussion:

At their April 18, 2023 meeting, the General Curriculum Committee approved the request from the Office of Reading, English, and Language Arts to approve the curriculum expansion to all remaining 7th grade language arts classrooms at Aberdeen Middle, Fallston Middle, Havre de Grace Middle, Southampton Middle, and Swan Creek School for the 23-24 school year.

Requested Action:

The Superintendent of Schools recommends that the Board of Education approve the expansion of the Units of Study Writing Curriculum to all 7th grade language arts classrooms in all middle schools for the 23-24 school year.