Early literacy – which DPS defines as reading, writing, listening and speaking – is essential to building a strong foundation for success in school and in life. While we have implemented a range of early literacy strategies in the past, in order to achieve the dramatic gains that we need to make, we need a more comprehensive, intensive and coordinated focus on early literacy districtwide.

The Early Literacy Plan is designed to:

- Help us meet the Denver Plan 2020 goal of ensuring our students are reading and writing at or above grade level by third grade.
- Close opportunity gaps that remain for our students of color, English language learners (ELLs) and students with disabilities.
- Address the unique needs of our English language learners.

Reading proficiency by third grade is an essential step toward high school graduation and career success – children who are reading proficiently by third grade are four times more likely to graduate. In developing readers, writers and communicators, we’re not only changing lives – we’re changing neighborhoods, communities and society.
Denver Plan 2020

**GOAL 2: A FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS IN SCHOOLS**

**THEN**

32% of third graders met or exceeded expectation on 2016 state assessments.

**NOW**

36% of third graders met or exceeded expectation on 2018 state assessments.

**GOAL**

80% of third graders will meet or exceed expectations on 2020 state assessments.

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**PROFESSIONAL LEARNING**

Supporting educators in providing outstanding literacy instruction for all learners.

**LEADERSHIP**

Maintaining an intentional focus on early literacy while supporting and inspiring educators.

**ASSESSMENTS**

Helping educators monitor student progress and adjust instruction to drive student growth.

**INTERVENTION**

Focusing supports to meet each students’ needs and accelerate their progress.

**TIME**

Prioritizing time for students and educators to focus on the joy of reading, writing and communicating.

**CURRICULUM**

Providing engaging, rigorous and culturally-relevant learning that fosters strong readers, writers and communicators.

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Learn more at earlyliteracy.dpsk12.org