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## Newton Public Schools Elementary Reading Curriculum - \$2,000,000

The Newton Public Schools have had a terrific committee of elementary teachers and administrators reviewing materials for a new reading curriculum for grades K-5. Our current reading units were written between 2002-2012 and developed in-house by multiple teachers and literacy specialists. The work on finding the best curriculum for Newton began in 2019 (before the pandemic) and continued last year. The team reviewed a wide range of elementary reading programs, visited schools using different curricula, and piloted materials at various grade levels to find the best one for Newton — comprehensive, engaging, high-quality, cohesive, culturally responsive, standards-aligned and research-based. I set aside \$2 million to fund this critical one-time investment to equip our students and teachers with the materials they need across our 15 elementary schools. Strong literacy skills (reading, writing, speaking, listening and language) in the elementary years are foundational to student success and supporting these efforts in the wake of the pandemic is an excellent investment of Newton’s one-time ARPA funds.