

DIXIE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Educational Services

Regular Meeting

March 12, 2019

TO: Jason Yamashiro, Superintendent

SUBJECT: Balanced Literacy: Independent Reading

This school year, the district has been implementing a component of balanced literacy: independent reading. As we have moved through this year we have introduced this instructional component to all teachers and provided tools and professional development.

Late last year, the Curriculum Council, which is a council of teacher leaders at the elementary level, decided to focus on balanced literacy as a way to provide more robust teaching and learning to our adopted ELA program, Wonders. Balanced Literacy consists of various components including independent reading, guided reading, listening and speaking, guided writing and independent writing.

To begin our learning and implementation of a Balanced Literacy program, Independent Reading was selected. Independent Reading takes the concept of Silent Sustained Reading (SSR) to a more productive and engaging learning activity for all students. Independent Reading is designed to build a culture of reading in the classroom that allows teacher and students to maximize independent reading time. The more students read, the better they do academically.

Independent reading sets itself apart with three main components:

- Students choice
- Teachers conferring with students
- Students set goals and teachers help monitor progress

Independent Reading is an effective use of classroom time because students:

- Engage in texts for enjoyment, curiosity, and to develop their reading
- Get choice in selecting their reading materials
- Read on their own every day
- Read text at their independent or instructional reading levels with teacher support
- Meet in established reading partnerships to discuss their books, grow ideas together, and reflect on their reading progress
- Have ongoing opportunities to reflect and monitor their own reading success
- Identify areas of need or strategy focus (teacher)

This presentation will further develop the components of Independent Reading and provide evidence of success.