

American Samoa Department of Education K-3 Early Literacy Initiative Newsletter



| Issue 1
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Quote

READING is the **GATEWAY** for **CHILDREN** that makes **ALL** other **LEARNING POSSIBLE** ~Barack Obama

Talofa & Welcome!!!

We are excited to share the first K-3 Early Literacy Initiative newsletter to bring awareness to the prioritization of early learning for our youngest students, and the steps the department is pursuing to support the 23 public elementary schools. Most importantly, to CELEBRATE the great things happening in our K-3 classrooms, for teachers, and administrators.

Early Literacy Skills

The path to learning how to read for children starts as early as 3 years old. Research confirms the lack of early literacy skills at the onset of a child's preschool education contributes to the struggle to learn how to read and are at a disadvantage in performing at grade level across all subjects. And the instruction of these 5 Early Literacy Skills, 1. Phonemic Awareness, 2. Phonics, 3. Fluency, 4. Vocabulary, and 5. Comprehension is the initial progression to becoming a successful reader. Believe it or not, children exposed to letter sounds (Skill #1) before seeing the letters is the first step.

K-3 Early Literacy Initiative

Years of low Standard-Based Assessment scores, coupled with the large % of students not performing at grade level prompted new leadership to explore WHY? It was identified that 'consistent daily instruction' and 'program fidelity' encompassing the 5 Early Literacy Skills were greatly lacking in our Kindergarten to 3rd-grade classrooms. To address this 'root problem' and lead the work, the Division of Curriculum & Instruction in a collaborative effort with the Elementary Division, along with support & oversight by the Office of Accountability and School Improvement Systems was tasked to undertake the initiative implementation.

The GOAL...*raise overall student achievement by increasing literacy rates* in the early grades. The territorial-wide initiative will be implemented in 3 phases. The initiative will be a success if; it is understood and embraced by all key stakeholders; an aggressive approach is taken to learn about the programs, assessments, & utilize data results, etc.; consistent supervision of program implementation; and all are held accountable for their role...for **Our Students Deserve Our Best!**



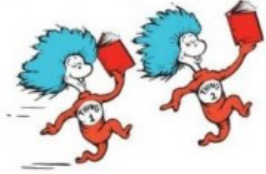
Quote

Reading is a **passport** to countless **adventures**. ~Mary Pope Osborne

SY2021-22 Phase I: Pilot Implementation

- ◆ 6 Elementary schools: Pavaia'i, Leone Midkiff, Tafuna, Matafao, Coleman and Olomoana; 24 teachers-12(K5) and 12(1st) grade classrooms-243 students.
- ◆ Programs: Read Well and Language for Learning; External Assessment: Acadience
- ◆ Resources: Supplies, Equipment and Furniture provided utilizing Elementary ARPA funds estimated at \$350, 000+
- ◆ First ever week-long VIRTUAL summer training for Teachers, Administrators, program and division stakeholders. Continuous professional development (face-to-face & virtual) for Mentor Teachers to support schools, including teachers, teacher assistants, SPED teachers & administrators.

The MORE
that you read,
the MORE things
you will know.
The MORE that you
Learn,
the MORE places you'll go.



SY2022-23 Phase II: Roll Out Implementation (June-December)

- 23 elementary schools; All K5, 1st and 2nd grade classrooms.
- Summer virtual and face-to-face trainings for 2nd grade teachers and administrators
- Fall Trainings: Read Well & Language for Learning: K-2 Teachers, TAs & SPED Teachers; Acadience Administration- Principals & VPs; RW TOT-Mentor Teachers, ELA & OASIS Staff
- DCI-ELA, Warehouse, and OASIS worked together to label and deliver supplies, equipment and furniture.
- All 148 K-3 classes received book bins, crayons, pencils, extension cords, LCD projector, speaker, rolling easel, half-moon tables, chairs, dry-erase boards and pens, etc.



**Stay tuned for next month's highlights!!!*

Office of Accountability and School Improvement Systems (OASIS)



JANUARY 2023