



# **Elementary English Language Arts Curriculum Resources in Michigan: Trends from 2019-2023**

**Presented to:  
The House Appropriations  
Subcommittee on School Aid and  
Department of Education  
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# THE EPIC APPROACH

The **Education Policy Innovation Collaborative (EPIC)** is an independent, non-partisan education policy research center located in the College of Education at Michigan State University. In **close collaboration** with our state, district, and agency partners, we establish a **comprehensive research agenda** and pursue a series of coordinated projects examining an array of interrelated questions and look at them from multiple angles.

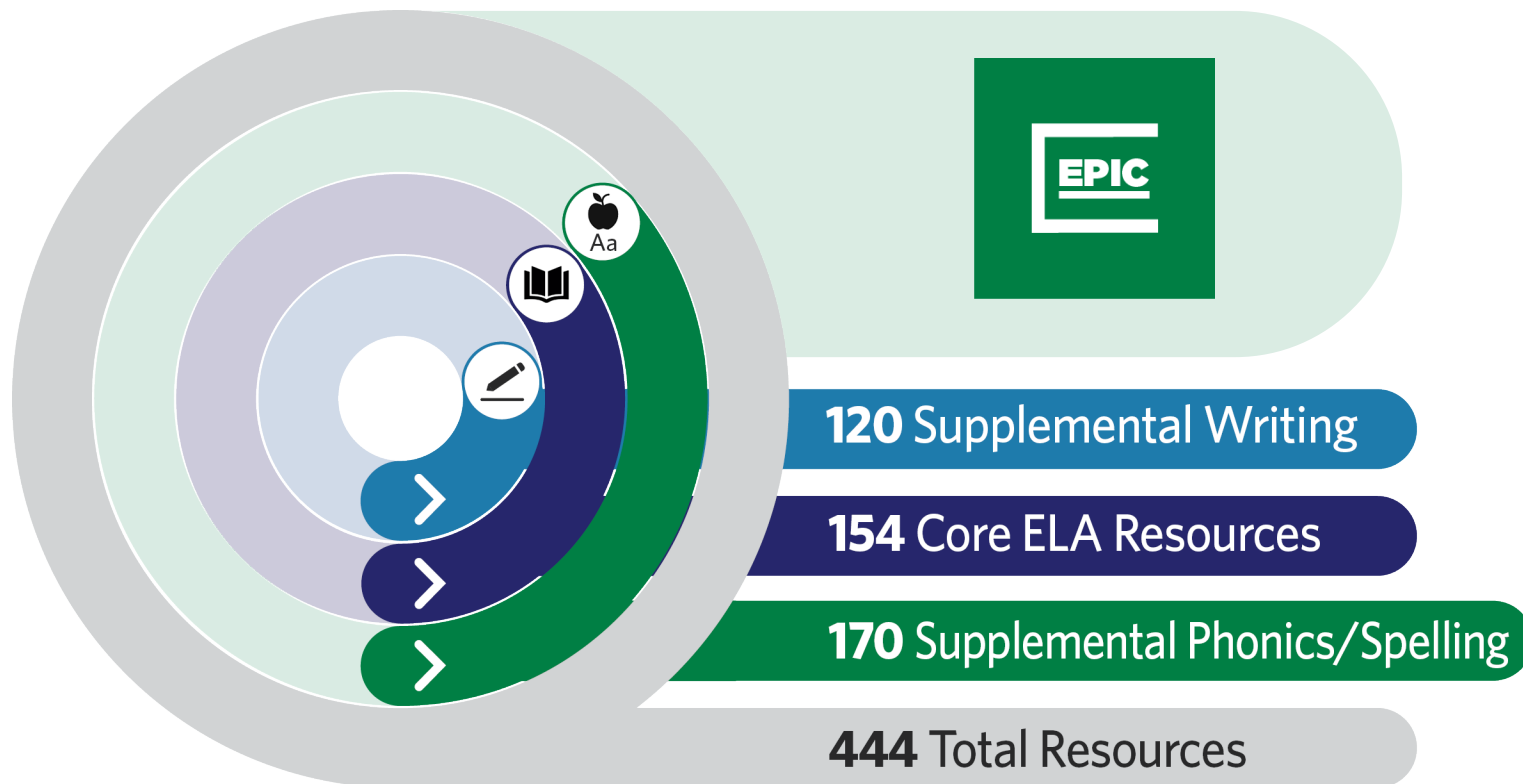
This approach requires a **team of experts** doing rigorous work that integrates multiple methods. As a university-based center, we are also **training the next generation of talented researchers** to provide evidence that strengthens policymaking.



Together with our partners, we are ultimately working to **improve educational outcomes** for all kids, and especially students, educators, and families in urban, rural, and historically underserved communities by **providing objective and actionable research** to inform decisions.

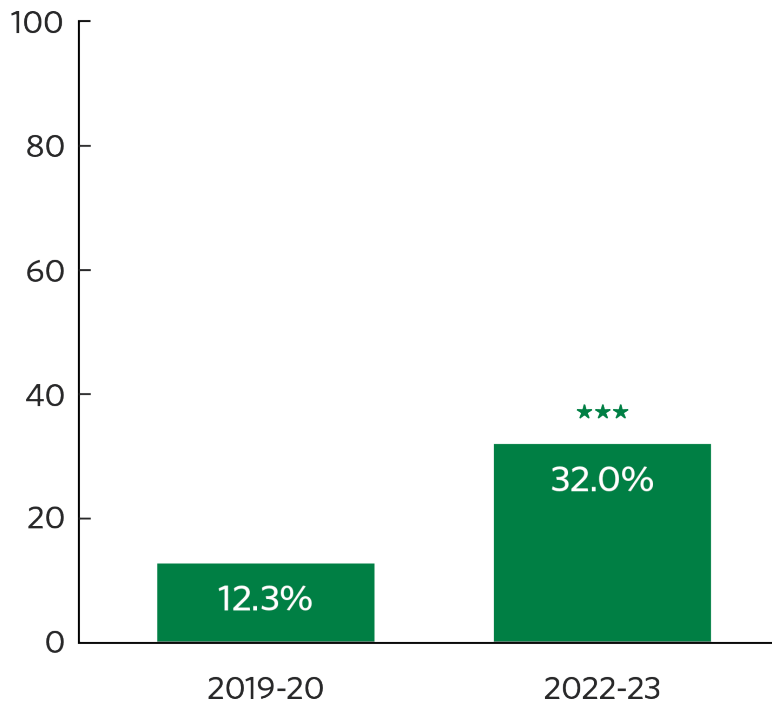
# Elementary ELA Curriculum Across Michigan Varies Widely

- Teachers use 444 different ELA curriculum resources
- Teachers are more likely to supplement their core curriculum with additional writing, phonics, or spelling resources than they were in 2019-20



# Many of the Most-Used ELA Curriculum Resources Lack Research on Their Effectiveness

Percent of Teachers Using Curriculum Resources  
EdReports Rates as "Meets Expectations"



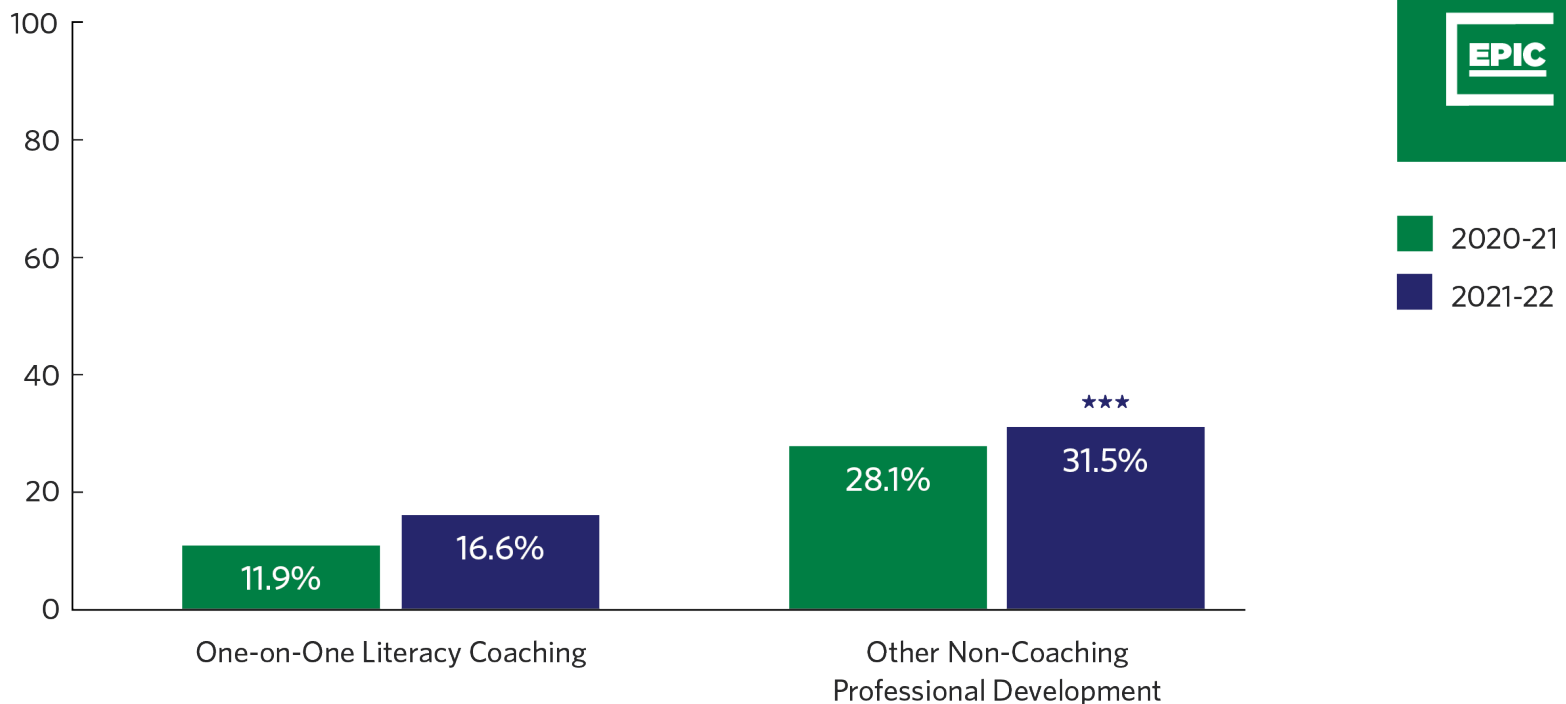
- More than two-thirds of teachers use curriculum resources that are either unrated or do not meet expectations according to EdReports.
- A majority of the most commonly used curriculum resources do not have ratings from What Works Clearinghouse or Evidence for ESSA.

*Note: The percentages in this figure represent the percent of teachers who reported using one or more core ELA curriculum resources that EdReports rated as "Meets Expectations." Teachers were asked, "Which of the following English language arts (ELA) curricula do you use? Please mark all that apply." Teachers could also write in their curriculum if it was not listed. We combined curricula that were the same but different editions. 12.01% of teachers did not respond to this question in 2019-20 and 6.0% did not in 2022-23. Source: 2019-20 and 2022-23 EPIC Read by Grade Three Law surveys.*

# Teachers Seek out PD That Helps Them Implement Literacy Curriculum

- Professional development in supporting teachers' implementation of literacy curriculum resources is on the rise, with increases in both literacy coaching and other non-coaching forms of professional development.

Percent of Teachers Who Indicated Receiving Professional Learning on Implementing Literacy Curriculum



*Note: Teachers were asked, "Please tell us on which of the following topics you received literacy professional development this school year and in what format." This figure shows responses for the item, "Implementing my school's/district's literacy curriculum." Response options included "One-on-one literacy coaching from an ISD Early Literacy Coach," "One-on-one literacy coaching from someone other than an ISD Early Literacy Coach," and "Other literacy professional development." This figure combines the two coaching options. In 2020-21, 66.9% of teachers received neither one-on-one literacy coaching nor other literacy professional development and thus did not answer this question. This was the case for 55.0% of teachers in 2021-22. Statistical between the two school years is indicated by  $p < 0.10$  +,  $p < 0.05$  \*,  $p < 0.01$  \*\*,  $p < 0.001$  \*\*\*. Source: 2020-21 and 2021-22 EPIC Read by Grade Three surveys*

# Policy and Practitioner Recommendations



Support access to research-based curriculum resources with robust curriculum evaluation tools



Promote consistency of curriculum resource selection while valuing teacher professional judgment



Continue & expand curriculum-aligned professional development opportunities, with a focus on coaching



## **Education Policy Innovation Collaborative**

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