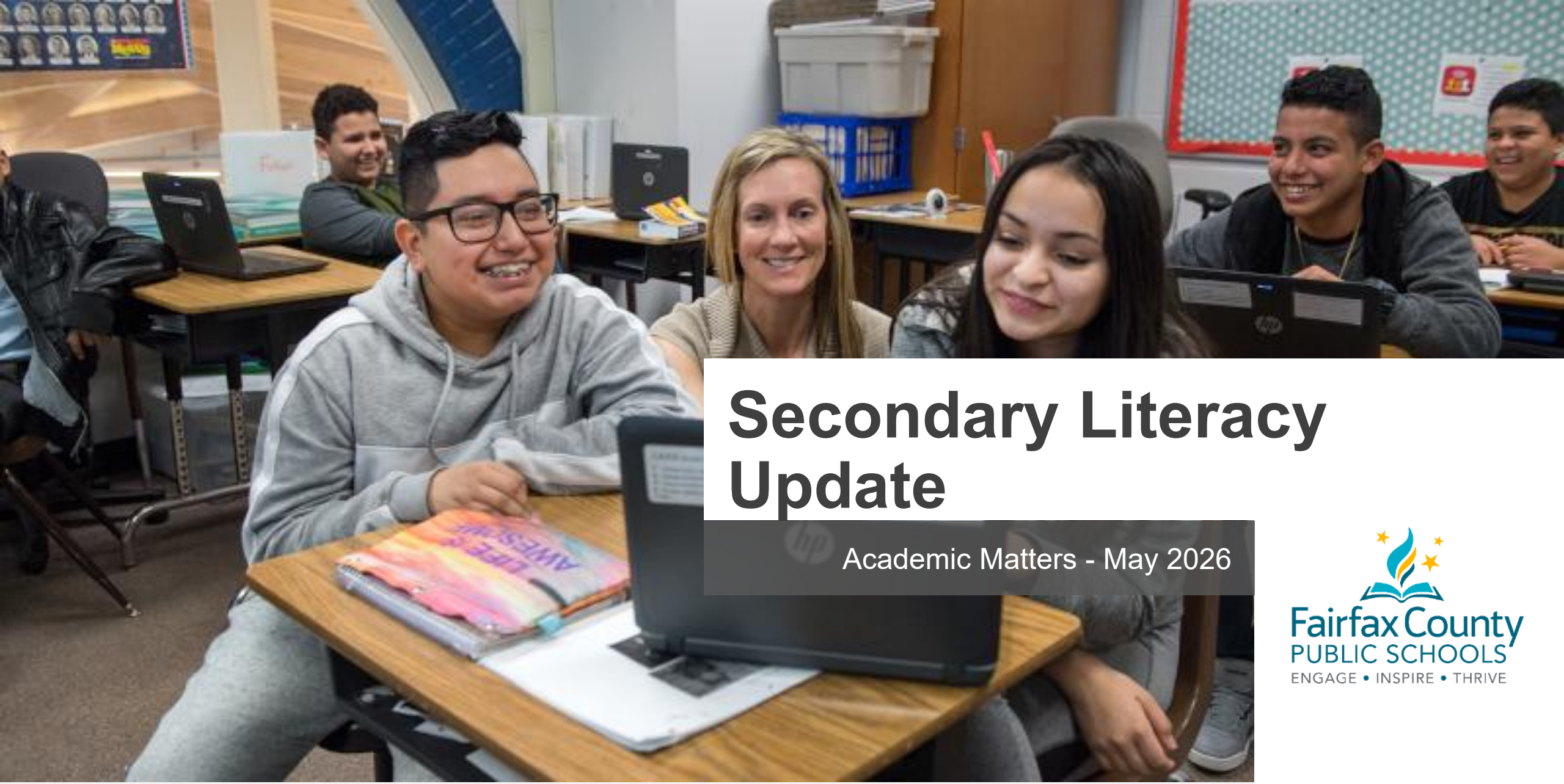


Secondary Literacy Update

Academic Matters - May 2026

Fairfax County PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ENGAGE • INSPIRE • THRIVE

Equitable Access to Literacy in Secondary Schools

Schools implemented several changes impacting core instruction and intervention this year.

CORE (Instruction)

New for 2025-2026

- Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction state canvas courses for MS teachers
- FCPS professional learning for MS and HS Administrators in EBLI, engagement and vocabulary

Continue to implement changes from 2024:

- Revised ELA Standards of Learning
- iReady and MAP universal screeners

MORE (Intervention)

New for 2025-2026

- Administered state screener, VALLSS, in MS and follow up-diagnostics in HS
- 7,108 individualized reading plans created for MS and HS students receiving interventions
- Reading plans use state-approved intervention programs and frequently monitor progress



Growing Green, Secondary Screener Data Fall 2024 to Fall 2025: More Students on Grade Level

	Grade 7 (iReady)	Grade 8 (iReady)	Grade 9 (MAP Growth)	Grade 10 (MAP Growth)	Grade 11 (MAP Growth)
Fall 2024 % On/Approaching Grade Level	60.4%	53.2%	70%	72%	70.4%
Fall 2025 % On/Approaching Grade Level	69.6%	68.6%	71.4%	74.7%	70.7%
Improvement from last fall	+9.2%	+15.4%	+1.4%	+2.7%	+0.3%

Shrinking Red, Secondary Screener Data Winter 2025 to Winter 2026: Fewer Students At Risk

	Grade 7 (iReady)	Grade 8 (iReady)	Grade 9 (MAP Growth)	Grade 10 (MAP Growth)	Grade 11 (MAP Growth)
# of students at risk in Winter 2025	4,697	5,398	3,106	2,751	2,341
# of students at risk in Winter 2026	3,825	3,727	2,392	2,189	1,564
Improvement from last winter	-7.0%	-11.1%	-9.4%	-8.4%	-13.1

High School Data Highlights



- 12.8% fewer 12th graders performed below expectations on MAP Growth in Fall 2026 than in Fall 2025.
- Overall, 26% of HS students demonstrating risk on MAP Growth in the fall (scoring below the 50th percentile) achieved over 100% of expected yearly growth in one semester.
- The inclusive tenth grade AP Seminar as English 10 had a 99% exam pass rate overall and 100% exam pass rate for students with disabilities last Spring.

Looking Ahead:
Strategies for Continued Secondary Literacy Improvement

CORE (Instruction)

- Provide PD and resources to support scaffolding access to grade-level, complex texts in alignment with the 2024 SOLs
- Operationalize the ELD Basal Resource to support language and literacy development for MLs
- Focus on explicit vocabulary instruction using high quality instructional materials

MORE (Intervention)

- Provide explicit guidance and PD for interventions and reading plans for MLs and SWDs
- Leverage the ELD block to strengthen language and literacy development by delivering targeted literacy interventions in addition to ELD
- Ensure progress is monitored frequently in relation to General Outcome Measures
- Expand training in evidence-based interventions and conduct central office walk-throughs to support fidelity of implementation

Secondary Literacy Conference Series: Beyond ELA

MS and HS Administrators (APs, DSSs, and DSAs) are participating in a three-part conference series to build knowledge about evidence-based literacy instruction and promote literacy across the curriculum for ALL students, with particular attention to MLs and SWD:

- November: Student Engagement
- February: Evidence-Based Vocabulary and Morphology
- Summer: Literacy Leadership in 26-27

Administrators focus on classroom walkthroughs to coach up student engagement using academic language in every content area.