

The StudySync Curriculum: A Process and Outcome Evaluation

Recommendation 1: Enhanced Professional Development for Effective Curriculum Implementation

Opinion	Responsive Action Plan (Provide Narrative Response)	Status of Responsive Action	Estimated Date of Full Implementation of Responsive Action
Concur	<p>MCPS will issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) in the fall of 2024 to select the English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum for the 2025–2026 school year and beyond.</p> <p>Funds will be requested in the 2025–2026 school year and beyond to provide ongoing professional learning during the year to support a successful launch of the curriculum and to ensure that teachers have ample opportunities to deepen their knowledge of the curriculum and how best to implement it for student success.</p> <p>For context, MCPS has offered StudySync professional learning with the vendor each year to teachers who are new to middle school ELA. Additional professional learning sessions were offered during the school year throughout the first year of implementation. These sessions were virtual for Cohort 2 as they took place during the virtual instruction year of the pandemic. While the sessions were designed in collaboration with the vendor to meet teachers’ needs with regard to implementation, the format made it difficult for teachers to receive the full benefit. The virtual instruction format during the initial rollout also prevented the typical structure of follow-up coaching that would have occurred in classrooms. Since then,</p>	Partially Implemented	5/30/2025

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	<p>we have worked with the vendor to improve the quality of teachers’ professional learning, shifting to more district-led facilitation. The ELA team also has observed instruction in schools across the county to provide feedback to teachers and leaders regarding effective implementation.</p> <p>While regularly scheduled professional learning historically has not been provided directly to teachers after the initial implementation year, ELA leaders have received ongoing education about how best to implement and adapt the curriculum to meet student needs. Examples of professional learning topics provided to English Content Specialists (CSs) include revising lesson plans for cultural responsiveness, providing scaffolds and supports, and differentiating for highly able learners.</p> <p>For the 2024–2025 school year, funding has not been set aside to expand StudySync Professional Development (PD) to all middle school ELA teachers; however, ongoing PD will be provided to ELA CSs in alignment with the patterns identified in the report.</p>		

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Recommendation 2: Clear and Consistent Expectations for Curriculum Fidelity

Opinion	Responsive Action Plan (Provide Narrative Response)	Status of Responsive Action	Estimated Date of Full Implementation of Responsive Action
Concur	MCPS will issue an RFP in the fall of 2024 to select the ELA curriculum for the 2025-26 school year and beyond. While the ELA team has provided MCPS-specific pacing guides and teacher-facing resources to detail how the taught curriculum should look, the circumstances of the initial rollout (occurring during virtual learning) made consistent implementation a challenge from the outset. Upon selecting the 2025–2026 school year curriculum, clear expectations will be communicated to teachers, school leaders, and collaborating offices within MCPS. Ongoing professional learning for both teachers and leaders will highlight the “non-negotiables” of curriculum and ensure leaders are equipped to share consistent messaging.	Partially Implemented	8/22/2025

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Recommendation 3: Strengthened Monitoring and Accountability in Curriculum Adherence

Opinion	Responsive Action Plan (Provide Narrative Response)	Status of Responsive Action	Estimated Date of Full Implementation of Responsive Action
Concur	<p>Upon selection of the curriculum for 2025–2026, tools to monitor effective curriculum implementation will be provided to teachers, school leaders, and collaborating offices within MCPS. In particular, collaboration with OSSI will be elevated to ensure that directors are able to support principals in monitoring curriculum implementation and providing effective feedback and coaching aligned with district expectations.</p> <p>Given the stated limitations of the program evaluation with regard to representation and the reliance upon teacher perception in the report, future curriculum monitoring must include direct classroom observation across all middle schools aligned to a common implementation tool.</p> <p>For the upcoming 2024–2025 school year, the Office of Curriculum and Instructional Programs will elevate with leaders the existing tools to monitor StudySync implementation. It will underscore the importance of ensuring that ELA leaders communicate clear expectations to teachers around what is and what is not required with regard to curriculum adherence.</p>	Partially Implemented	6/19/2026