



CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW BRITAIN

New Britain Board of Education Curriculum Committee Meeting

October 17, 2022 – 6:00 PM | New Britain Educational Administration Center

Call to Order and Opening

Mr. Anthony Kane, Curriculum Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Board Members Present

Mr. Anthony Kane*, Ms. Diana Reyes*, Ms. Gayle Sanders-Connolly#, Ms. Tina Santana*

**Committee member*

#Attended remotely

CSDNB Staff Present

Ms. Amy Anderson, Ms. Lara Bohlke, Ms. Kristina DeNegre, Dr. Anthony Gasper, Ms. Lisa Kawecky, Dr. Silvia Mayo-Molina, Ms. Kristin Salerni, Ms. Ivelise Velazquez

New Business

Review and Approve Minutes from the Curriculum Committee Meeting on September 12, 2022

There were no recommended changes to the minutes from the Curriculum Committee Meeting on September 12, 2022.

Accept Monthly EdAdvance Report

Ms. Lara Bohlke, District Coordinator of Curriculum for Grades 6-12, and Ms. Amy Anderson, District Coordinator of PK-5 Curriculum, shared a link to the Monthly EdAdvance Reports with committee members. Committee members reviewed actions, accomplishments, and next steps for the months of August and September.

Presentation: Communities Creating Change (C3) Curriculum

Background:

In partnership with family and community, the Consolidated School District of New Britain works to provide the best personalized and comprehensive whole-child education so our students will be prepared for, and positively contribute to, a profoundly different future. The 2021-2022 school year marked new challenges for students and staff in addressing the needs of the whole child including students' mental and social-emotional health. With the overdose pandemic on the rise nationwide, it is important to educate our students on drug safety and awareness starting at a young age. According to a report from The City of New Britain Office of Community Services and New Britain Recovers Initiative, as of July 2022, there were 23 total overdose deaths reported in New Britain, of those, 13 were reported in residences with a victim age range of 25-52 years old. In efforts to work together with community partners and foster an environment where our students can build positive relationships with our police officers in the city, select New Britain Police Officers will become trained facilitators of a curriculum developed by a partnership between

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Southington Police Department and The City of New Britain's Youth Prevention Council.

The cost of the delivery of the curriculum will be \$19,073.25 per year. The cost covers the overtime rate for (9) officers for (7) weeks of instruction. Each trained officer will be partnered with our elementary schools to deliver the curriculum. Officers will also visit the schools throughout the school year to establish positive rapport and build relationships with students prior to March, the target month for delivery. This is a unique opportunity to work in partnership with The New Britain Police Department to pilot this educational curriculum to safeguard our students at the elementary level.

The Communities Creating Change (C3) Curriculum was developed this past year for 5th grade elementary students. The curriculum consists of seven modules including topics such as: identifying trusted adults, identifying characteristics of a growth mindset, identifying and evaluating risk taking behaviors and decision making, youth substance use and the developing brain, internet safety and cyberbullying, and how social acceptance encourages diversity and increasing empathy towards others. There will be a pre and posttest along with surveys at the conclusion of each module. All of these topics directly support the work the district has been doing around Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Social Emotional Learning.

Total Amount: \$19,073.25

Funding Source: Athletics Activity Account Budget

Line Code: Athletics Activity Account

Presentation:

Ms. Lisa Kawecki, District Assistant Coordinator of Physical Education, Health and Wellness PK-8, began the presentation by introducing the following community members that were in attendance:

Ms. Mallory Deprey: New Britain Community Services Program Manager

Ms. Tyshaunda Wiley: New Britain Prevention Coordinator

Ms. Megan Albanese: Youth Prevention Coordinator, Southington STEPS Coalition

Mr. Chris LaPorte: Southington Police Officer

Ms. Kawecki explained that in order to address our students' mental and social-emotional health amid the opioid overdose pandemic, we need to provide our younger students with health curriculum at the elementary level. In response to this need, The City of New Britain's Youth Prevention Council connected our staff with the Southington STEPS Coalition and Southington Police Department who have partnered to pilot the implementation of health, safety and prevention curriculum for grade five students in their public schools. Ms. Albanese provided background information regarding their transition from the D.A.R.E. Program to the implementation of the C3 Curriculum in Southington. She explained the training that Southington Police Department officers received prior to delivering the curriculum to 5th grade students. Ms. Albanese provided committee members with customizable materials and documents related to their program. The presentation is attached.

At this point, the presentation was given for informational purposes only, although full Board consensus may be sought at a future Regular Board Meeting

Presentation: CSDE Reading Mandate – Legislation and Overview

Superintendent Gasper explained that CSDNB is required to implement one of five state-approved reading curriculum models or programs starting with the 2023-24 school year as a result of Public Act No. 21-2. Deputy Superintendent Ivelise Velazquez provided committee members with an overview of the new reading legislation passed last year and an updated timeline with regard to the decision deadline and roll-out process. The original legislation required that the Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success and the Reading Leadership Implementation Council would identify five reading curriculum models or programs by July 1, 2022 but the list was not published until September 30, 2022. Ms. Velazquez and Academics & Accountability Officer PK-5 Kristina DeNegre highlighted the steps that will be taken in order to make the best-informed decision given the tight timeline and deadline of December 15, 2022. The top recommendation will be presented to the full Board at their December meeting. The presentation is attached.

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The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 PM.

Communities Creating Change

A prevention curriculum designed for 5th grade students developed by the Southington Police Department in partnership with The City of New Britain's Youth Prevention Council



An effort to foster an environment in which our students can develop protective risk factors and build positive relationships with the New Britain Police Department to keep themselves safe from harmful situations.

Target delivery date: March 2023

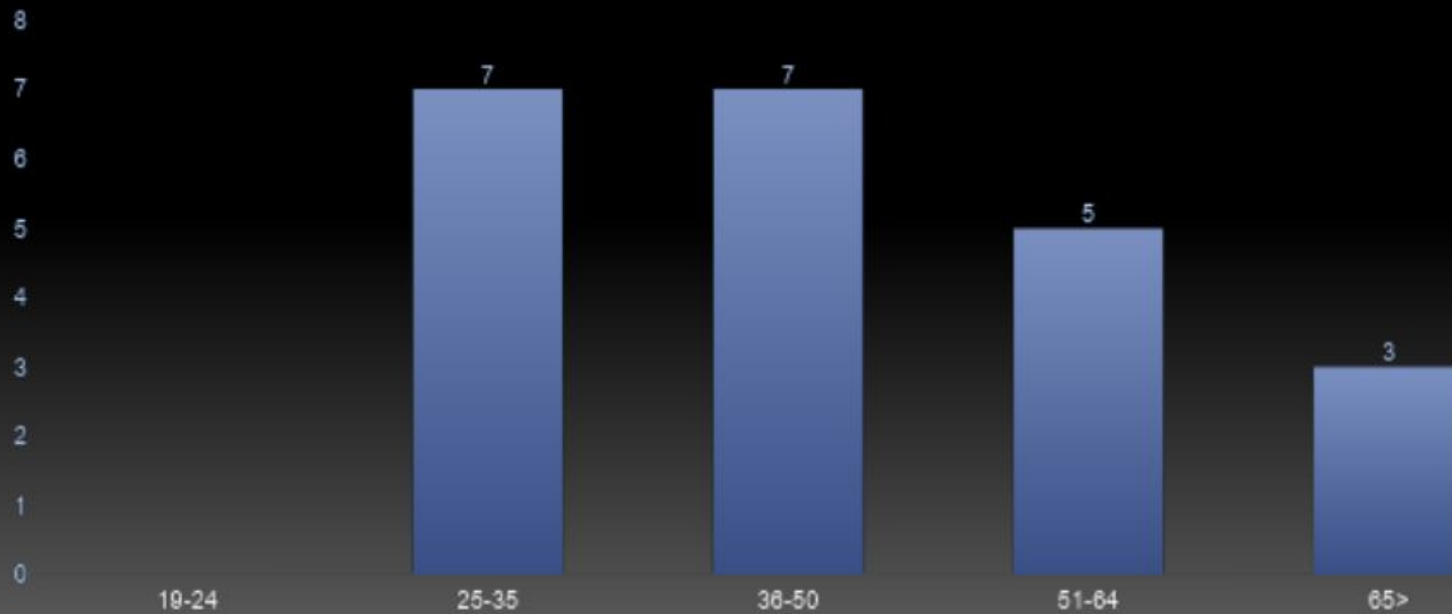
Background

The 2021-2022 school year marked new challenges for students and staff in addressing the needs of the whole child including students' mental and social-emotional health. It is important we foster an environment that enables our students to develop protective risk factors to reduce the likelihood of negative outcomes.

The opioid overdose pandemic is on the rise nationwide and here in our community. As of July, there were 23 total overdose deaths reported in New Britain. Of those, 13 were reported in residences with a victim age range of 25-52 years old.

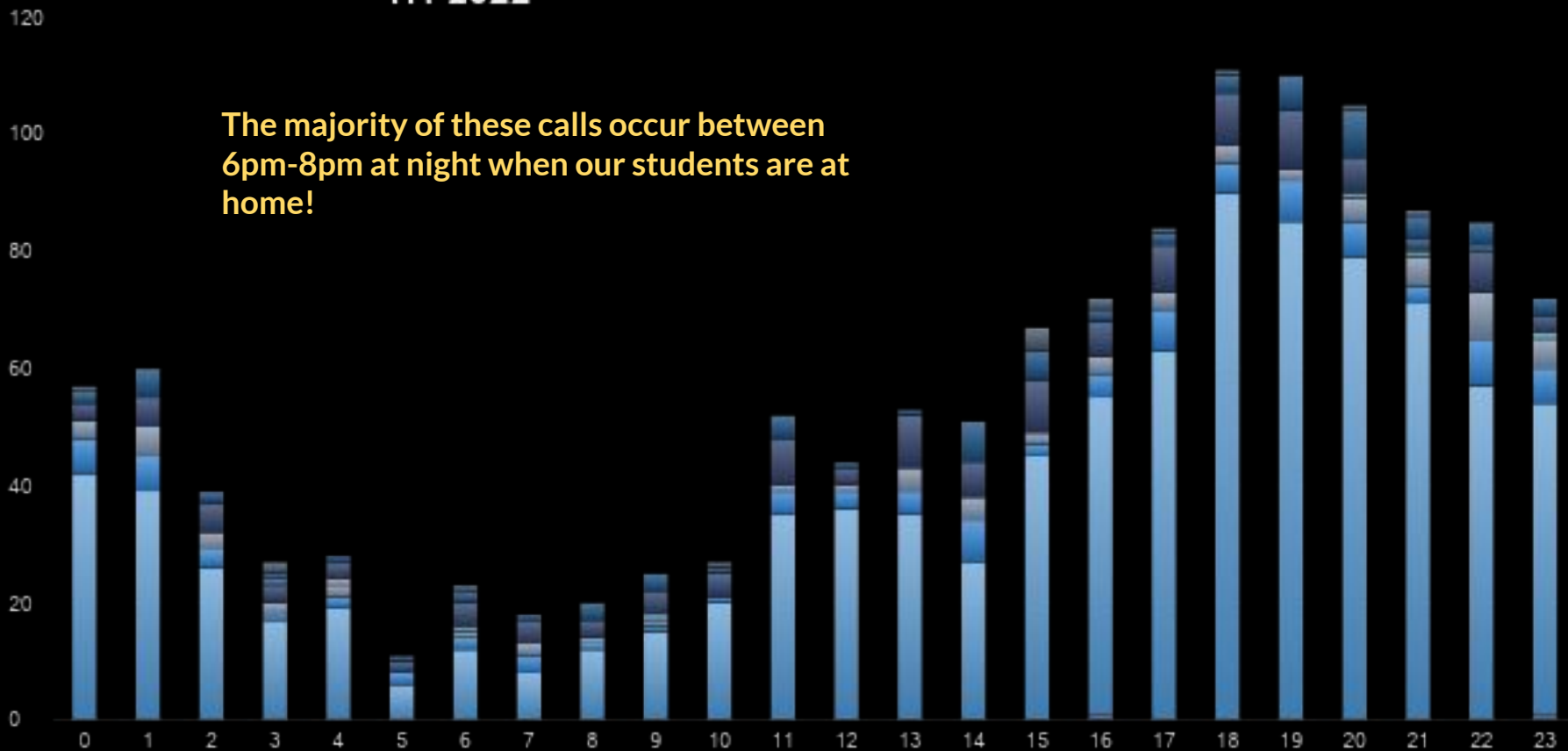


New Britain Overdose Deaths by Age Band 1-1-22 to 7-7-22



Calls with Substance Use by Hour of Day H1 2022

The majority of these calls occur between 6pm-8pm at night when our students are at home!



C3 Curriculum

Communities Creating Change

- 2022-2023 First Pilot Year
- Southington Police Department officers were trained in September to deliver to Southington schools
- Select NBPDP officers to be trained as facilitators in Jan-February by Southington officers for delivery in March
- One officer for every elementary school
- Curriculum is based off of 7 modules with a pre- and post- survey assessment
 - Lessons are designed to be interactive and include the use of technology and include exit slips for officers to review to inform their instruction for the next module.
 - Learning activities include opportunities for collaboration and problem solving, decision making and self expression.

Modules:

Module 1: Relational Capacity-Building a level of trust between student and teacher.

Essential Question: How are people transformed through their relationships with others?

Module 2: Protective and Risk Factors

Essential Question: How do we form and shape our identities?

Module 3: Growth Mindset

Essential Question: How can I keep going when things get tough?

Module 4: Risk Taking Behaviors

Essential Question: How can I make a confident choice when faced with a difficult decision?

Module 5: Youth Substance Use and the Developing Brain

Essential Question: How can substance use affect me?

Module 6: (A) Internet Safety, Safe Gaming, Digital Citizenship and (B) Cyberbullying

Essential Question(s): How can I stay safe while gaming? What does it mean to be a good digital citizen? When does inappropriate digital behavior cross the line?

Module 7: Social Acceptance, Diversity and Empathy

Essential Question: How does acceptance make every person a learning opportunity?

Is There a Cost?

Overtime rate for 9 officers to deliver the 7 modules of instruction:
\$19,073.25 per year



2021 CT Reading Legislation

October 17, 2022

Impact of the New Reading Legislation, [Section 395 of Public Act No. 21-2](#)

**Center for Literacy
Research and
Reading Success**

**Reading Leadership
Implementation
Council
(11 members)**

**Five Approved
Reading Curriculum
Models or programs
for K-3**

7 elements of reading:

- a. oral language,
- b. phonemic awareness,
- c. phonics,
- d. fluency,
- e. vocabulary,
- f. rapid automatic name or letter name fluency, and
- g. reading comprehension

Decision Regarding Selection of the Comprehensive Reading Program Due December 15, 2022

Language in [Section 395 of Public Act No. 21-2](#) (Pages 615-617)

The language of the bill has four major parts:

1. Establishes the **Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success** in the CT State Department of Education (CSDE)
2. Establishes the **Reading Leadership Implementation Council** to work in consultation with the Commissioner of Education and the director of the Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success.
3. Required that the Center and the Council identify **5 “reading curriculum models or programs** to be implemented by local and regional boards of education according to the unique needs of each school district.” The legislation required this be done by July 1, 2022 but the list was not published until September 30, 2022. Districts can choose of the list or submit a waiver request.
4. The programs need to be 1) scientifically research based and 2) focus on these **7 elements of reading**:
 - a. oral language,
 - b. phonemic awareness,
 - c. phonics,
 - d. fluency,
 - e. vocabulary,
 - f. rapid automatic name or letter name fluency, and
 - g. reading comprehension

Five Comprehensive Reading Programs

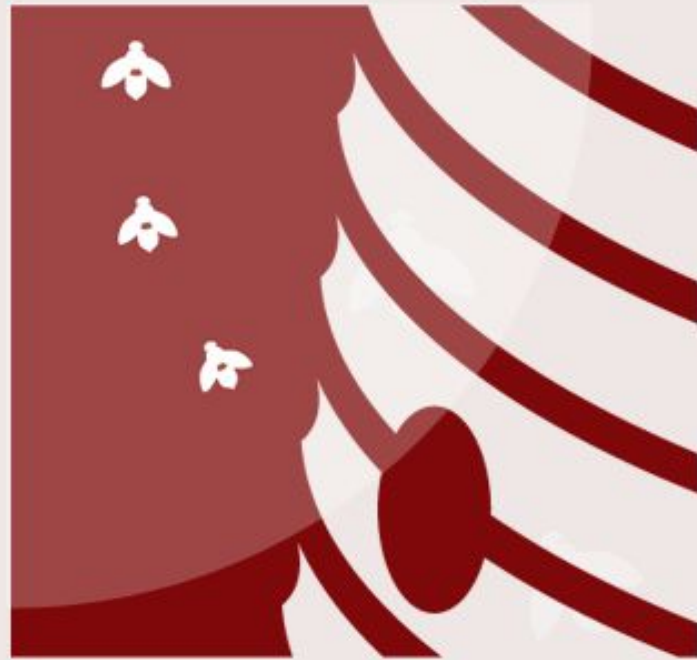
Connecticut Approved K–3 Core Comprehensive Reading Curricula/Programs

The following curricula/programs, listed in alphabetical order, fully meet the expectations of the [2022 Guidelines](#) and are approved for use by districts until June 30, 2027:

- American Reading Company – ARC Core® (K–3), (2020);
- Amplify Education Inc. – Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA, 2017);
- Imagine Learning – EL Education Grades K–3, (2017);
- McGraw Hill Education – Wonders, (2020);
- Open Up Resources – EL Education, (2017); and
- Savvas Learning Company – myView Literacy, (2020).

CSDNB Plan for Selecting a Program

- Sept. 30, 2022 - Steering Committee Members received Invite to Assist in the Review
- Oct. 12, 2022 - CSDNB requested sample materials & purchasing quotes from all 5
- Oct. 25, 2022 - Steering Committee Meeting (35 Stakeholders)
- Nov.7-18, 2022 - ***Reading Materials Showcase*** at Central Office, 4th Floor (11/7-18/22)
- Nov. 21, 2022 - Steering Committee Meeting to reviews data from showcase
- Nov. 28, 2022 - Superintendent and District Leadership, Top 2 Presentations
- Dec. 7, 2022 - Board of Education, Presentation on the Top Recommendation
- Dec. 15, 2022 - BOE decision due to the CSDE
- January, 2022 - Materials Ordered
- Immediately - CSDNB Begins Professional Learning for the Roll-out



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