2015 Instructional Material Summer Review Institute

Grade K – 8 : English Language Arts/Reading; CORE Reading Intervention; Modern, Classical and Native Languages

**Review Team Appraisal of Title – English Language Arts/Reading**

This information is provided for local school boards and governing authorities of charter schools to consider in their selection process to meet the needs of their student population.

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| Text Title: | Pearson System of Courses, Sixth Grade | Publisher: | Pearson Education, Inc. |
| Course: | 6th Grade ELA | Grade Level: | 6 |
| SE ISBN: | 9780133316773 | TE ISBN: | 9780133316773 |

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| **SECTION 1 SCORE** |
| Reviewer # and Section 1 Total: 1. #16 TOTAL639 2. #17 TOTAL653 3. #18 TOTAL658 Average Score: 650 |
| **SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT** |
| Review Team Assessment of material’s compliance with Section 1: * The Pearson System of Courses lays out an extensive, engaging array of reading, writing, thinking, and presenting opportunities, all laid out in a fashion which clearly would significantly and positively impact the literacy capacities of students utilizing it.
* The Pearson System of Courses excels in constantly focusing the students on the importance of noting, and using, textual evidence in support of arguments determined by their reading. Reinforcement on this and related points is ubiquitous.
* The Pearson System of Courses is particularly impressive in the breadth, width, and frequency of supported, structured extended-writing opportunities.
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| **SECTION 2 SCORE** |
| Reviewer # and Section 2 Total: 1. #16 TOTAL174 2. #17 TOTAL175 3. #18 TOTAL180 Average Score:       |
| **SECTION 2.A ASSESSMENT** |
| Review Team Assessment of material’s compliance with Section 2.A:      * In terms of differentiation and dealing with students at distinct levels in the same classroom, the Pearson System of Courses excels in offering strategies, scaffolding, and assessments that greatly aid the teacher in maintaining a classroom environment in which all students have a genuine opportunity to grow and excel.
* Reading selections are extensive, eclectic, and cross-curricular. The platform allows the inclusion of a much greater range of informational and prose texts.
* Many units include multi-cultural and historical perspectives on the key issue, a feature which makes for rich instruction and highly engaged students.
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| **SECTION 2.B ASSESSMENT** |
| Review Team Assessment of material’s compliance with Section 2.B: * Opportunities for the students to initiate discussion on new topics, build their understanding mid-unit, and/or present structured, productive projects as summative assessments abound.
* Teacher-support materials avoid patronizing the teacher in favor of providing actual materials and strategies which would support her or him and a professional and respectful fashion.
* Assessments are natural extensions of the work in the unit. They genuinely test the skills acquired.
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| **Reviewer Comments** |
| Reviewer #: 16 Reviewer Background: Nine years teaching, Level III, English 11 and AP L&C Comments: I have great respect and appreciation for this work. It couldn’t be more different from the classic, stultifying, ELA textbook. A first-year instructor could follow the Pearson System of Courses and have a successful year. Reviewer #: 17 Reviewer Background: Eighteen years of teaching, English III and AP Lang for the last six. Comments: If a district is willing to invest in the technology, this work would make an excellent basal text. Reviewer #: 18 Reviewer Background: Twenty-one years of teaching, fifteen in ELA along with eight in secondary ELL. Comments: The Pearson System of Courses approaches learning in a project mode, as each unit builds, through the lesson sequence, to summative assessments that the kids expect, understand, and can successfully complete. Perhaps as importantly, those lessons lay themselves out in a fashion which will push the level of engagement up throughout the class, and extend that engagement to reaches to which engagement might otherwise never travel.  |