Workshop Goals

After this workshop, you will:

1. Understand the purpose of leveling systems.
2. Know how to help children pick “just right” books.
3. Be familiar with library resources available to you.
Leveled Reading Systems

What, why and for whom?
What is a leveled reading system?
Leveled reading systems are tools and guidelines used in schools to match readers to the right books at the right time.

Why do we use these systems?
Leveled systems are used to match texts to readers for specific teaching purposes. Classroom libraries are leveled so students can choose books at just the right difficulty to practice strategies currently being taught.
Most Common Leveling Systems

❖ **Guided Reading Level** (A, B, C…)
  ➢ Precise alphabetic reading levels for books (A-Z)
  ➢ Represents wide range of reading abilities at each grade level (3 to 6 level range per grade)

❖ **Reading (Grade) Level Equivalent** (1, 2, 3…)
  ➢ System is by grade and month
  ■ Example: Fourth grade, third month (November) = GL or RL 4.3
Instructional vs. Independent

★ **Instructional Level**
students can read these books with the help of a teacher, NOT on their own

★ **Independent Level**
students can and should read these books by themselves without any assistance
Examples of Book Levels

RL = Reading Level (by Grade)
Examples of Book Levels

Leveled by age

For Instruction with Support
Classroom Leveled Libraries

First Grade Library Leveled by Color

First Grade Library Organized by Series/Interest
Classroom Leveled Libraries

Fifth Grade Leveled Library

Books are organized by genre and level

6th Grade Leveled Library
Key Points

❖ Leveling systems are just guidelines used by educators

❖ Instructional Level books are to be read with assistance

❖ Independent Level books are for students to read on their own for enjoyment and practice

❖ Benchmarks (ranges) differ by state and/or school district

❖ Teachers use the terms terms on-level, below level and above level to let parents know how students are growing as readers
DOs and DON'Ts

❖ DON’T ask a child to read a book far above his/her level independently-- This causes frustration and discourages students from reading.

❖ Do allow your child to explore any and all books they show interest in-- *Reading should be an enjoyable activity!*

❖ DO read to and with your child as often as possible (in your native language if applicable)
How Can Parents Help?

Tips For Parents
Tips for Helping Your Child At Home

- Provide a good reading role model
- Provide access to a variety of reading materials...books, magazines etc.
- Encourage activities that require reading
- Establish a reading routine that works for your family and for your child.
- Listen to your child read
- Ask questions about what your child is reading. Ask your child to retell a fictional story or explain what was read in an informational text
What is an ebook?

- Ebook stands for electronic book and the experience is similar to a traditional book.
- Newer ebook readers and programs such as nooks and kindles (and some apps) offer more enhancements to the ebook for example music may accompany the story, characters are animated, words are highlighted or read to the student. Some may contain games.
How to read an ebook with your child

● Recognize the novelty factor. Allow time for exploration, especially if this is a new experience.

● Enjoy the features, but don’t forget to focus on the story.

● Stay present with your child and the book experience.
Helping Your Child Select A “Just Right” book

I PICK GOOD FIT BOOKS

I - Choose a book.

P - Purpose? Why do I want to read it?

I - Interest? Does it interest me?

C - Comprehend? Do I understand?

K - Know? I know most of the words.
The “Five Finger Rule”

Five finger rule

1. Choose a book that you think you will enjoy.
2. Read the second page.
3. Hold up a finger for each word you are not sure of, or do not know.
4. If there are five or more words you did not know, you should choose an easier book.

Still think it may not be too difficult? Use the five finger rule on two more pages.
The “Five Finger Rule” to book selection

The Five Finger Rule—Choosing a “Just Right” Book

0 - 1 fingers--too easy
2 - 3 fingers--just right
4 - 5 fingers--too hard
Navigating Library Resources

Resources available to students and parents at home
Student Technology Playbook: accessible through the schools' homepages
The TumbleBooks collection has over 1,000 titles with content most appropriate for those in grades K-6. It includes animated talking picture books, chapter books, non-fiction books, as well as videos and graphic novels.

Compatibility:
- Works with Mac and Windows computers through website.
- Works with Android devices through website.
- Works with iOS devices through website.
- Works with Kindle tablets through website.
- Works with Barnes and Noble Nook Color and Nook Tablet through website.
- Any device without flash it will redirect to a mobile site.

Subscription service so Username and Password are required.

Username: riveredge   Password: reads
Epic partners with leading publishers including HarperCollins and National Geographic to provide thousands of high-quality books for children ages 12 and under.

Compatibility:
- On the web at www.getepic.com - This version is for use by computers.
- On iOS devices. Download the app from the Apple App Store
- On over 5000 Android devices, with OS versions 4.2.2 and higher and minimum screen width / density of 400 dpi
- Chromebook app
- Kindle - It will work on any Kindle HD device, running Fire OS 4.1 or higher

* While Epic is a subscription Service costing $4.99 a month, it is free for Educators. If you would like to utilize our guest accounts usernames and passwords are on the flyer.
Discover Destiny is the district’s online eBook library. Students in grades 3-6 have accounts set up and are able to check out two books at a time.

Compatibility/Minimum Requirements
- Desktop/laptop Windows 7 OS X v10.10 Chrome OS
- Tablets Android 4.4 and iOS8
- Smartphones and iPod touch Android 4.4 and iOS8

The login information is the student’s first name, last name, no spaces, no capitals. The password is their Google number.
• **Newsela** publishes high-interest news and nonfiction articles daily for grades 2-12

• Compatibility
  ○ On the web at [https://e.newsela.com/](https://e.newsela.com/)
  ○ App for the iPad

• Newsela is free

• During the summer students can sign up for “camp”, they read articles, answer quizzes and earn badges.
Questions?