

High-Quality Instructional Materials Can Be a Game-Changer

School districts across Florida have been hard at work selecting instructional materials as part of this year's English language arts adoption. Impact Florida and TNP brought together a cadre of eight districts to collaborate with each other to ensure they select high-quality materials that fit their needs.

These districts know that having high-quality materials based on research-backed best practices can dramatically improve student outcomes. TNP's study, [The Opportunity Myth](#), found that when students who started the year behind had greater access to grade-appropriate assignments, they closed learning gaps with their peers by more than seven months.

But to be successful, materials need to be a strategic fit for a district's vision and needs. For example, Highlands County Schools designed an evaluation tool for materials based on non-negotiables tied to their vision. Pinellas County Schools emphasized cultural responsiveness and, with their students, reviewed materials through an anti-racist lens. Lake County Schools connected with other districts across the country who are already using high-quality materials to better understand how they worked in practice.

Over the next three months, districts across Florida will be bringing their final selections to their boards. How can you help ensure that your local district selects and uses high-quality materials?

- Learn more about the [importance of high-quality materials](#) and the difference they can make for students
- Learn more about the state's materials adoption process and [provide feedback on the state's current adoption choices](#)
- Attend your local board meeting in support of materials and ask questions:
 - What is the district's instructional vision? How do these materials support the vision?
 - What community priorities and values should we consider in the materials?
 - Are the materials aligned to research-based best practices? (For example, do the K-2 reading materials follow a systematic phonics approach?)
- Support schools and local support organizations, such as community centers and shelters, by aligning work (book purchases, tutoring, etc.) with the materials, to support student access and success.

If you'd like to learn more about this cadre, please visit [Impact Florida's website](#) or email info@impactfl.org.