

TUCSON UNIFIED

SCHOOL DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Tucson Unified School District Approves Innovative Early Literacy Curriculum for Pre-K Classrooms

Tucson, AZ, August 13, 2025— Tucson Unified School District (TUSD) is thrilled to announce the governing board's approval for the acquisition and implementation of the **Teaching Early Literacy & Language (TELL) curriculum** in 60 Pre-K classrooms across its elementary schools. This evidence-based curriculum is set to significantly enhance early literacy and language development for TUSD's youngest learners.

The TELL curriculum was specifically developed to address the critical need for high-quality preschool programs, incorporating the latest research findings on effective early childhood education. It is meticulously designed to boost both the **quality and quantity of code-related and oral language instruction**, both of which are proven to foster substantial early literacy and language growth.

"We are incredibly proud to bring the TELL curriculum to our Pre-K students," said Reem Kievit, Senior Director, Community Schools and Preschool Programs. "This investment underscores our commitment to providing every child in Tucson Unified with the strongest possible foundation for academic success".

The TELL curriculum offers a array of benefits for preschoolers, including:

- **Enhanced Language and Literacy Skills:** TELL actively promotes rich oral language interactions between teachers and children, fostering significant vocabulary growth, improved sentence construction, and overall communication abilities. It also introduces crucial pre-writing skills such as scribbling, drawing, and understanding the directionality of writing.
- **Improved School Readiness:** By providing a solid foundation in early literacy and language, TELL helps children enter elementary school prepared and confident to learn to read.

- **Increased Engagement in Learning:** The curriculum's comprehensive and engaging approach cultivates a positive attitude towards learning from an early age.

In essence, the TELL curriculum represents a comprehensive and evidence-based approach to early literacy and language development. It will provide TUSD preschoolers with numerous advantages, laying the groundwork for future academic achievement and a lifelong love of learning.

Tucson Unified School District is Southern Arizona's largest district, educating more than 40,000 students. TUSD offers extensive learning opportunities for children, including Advanced Placement, GATE and International Baccalaureate, free full-day kindergarten, a focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), studies in seven world languages, fine arts, before- and after-school programs, and more. TUSD has proudly served Tucson families since 1867.