

SLLIS Curriculum, Grading, and Assessment June 2026

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Background Information

At SLLIS, it is a priority to offer a guaranteed and viable curriculum to our students, and we are committed to tracking their growth and learning. To that end, we leverage many tools that contribute to our instructional program within the Dual Language framework.

This document includes details about the following topics:

- Written Curriculum Standards define what students are expected to learn based on grade-level expectations.
- Curriculum Programs provide the instructional materials and lessons used to teach those standards.
- Standards Based Grading is a SLLIS-designed system that measures student mastery of the standards.
- Standardized Assessments provide external data to validate and monitor student progress over time.

Together, these systems create a coherent framework that aligns instruction, assessment, and reporting to support student learning and continuous improvement.

Written Curriculum Standards

At SLLIS, teachers collaborate to develop and continuously refine a comprehensive written curriculum that outlines the knowledge and skills students are expected to learn at each grade level. This curriculum ensures consistency across classrooms and provides a clear roadmap for teaching and learning throughout the school year.

For English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies, the curriculum is aligned to the Missouri Learning Standards. For French, Spanish, and Chinese language instruction, the curriculum is aligned to the ACTFL World-Readiness Standards for Learning Languages, which guide the development of language proficiency, communication skills, and cultural understanding.

Standards-Based Grading

[Standards-Based Grading](#) (SBG) is a grading method that measures student mastery of the standards they are learning. It allows students to take more ownership of their learning and encourages teachers to measure student growth by objective in a systematic way. SLLIS launched SBG for grades 6-8 in 2024-2025 and for grades K-5 in 2025-2026. SLLIS teachers have designed the SLLIS SBG rubrics, which are used to evaluate student mastery of standards across grades K-8, and are built upon the standards in the SLLIS written curriculum.

Curriculum Programs

With a strong written curriculum, SLLIS must also furnish its classrooms with curriculum materials so that the teachers have the tools necessary to lead students to mastery of these standards. To that end, SLLIS teachers and administrators identify curriculum programs that will help them reach the goals spelled out in the SLLIS Written Curriculum, and SLLIS purchases these items for use in our classrooms.

The information below includes details about the curriculum programs at SLLIS for all content areas.

English Language Arts

Benchmark Advance is SLLIS's core English Language Arts curriculum. It is designed to build strong readers, writers, speakers, and critical thinkers. This program provides students with access to high-quality, grade-level texts and engaging learning experiences that develop foundational literacy skills, reading comprehension, vocabulary, writing, and academic discourse. The curriculum uses a knowledge-building approach, and exposes students to a wide range of literary and informational texts while teaching them to analyze, discuss, and write about what they read.

SIPPS (Systematic Instruction in Phonological Awareness, Phonics, and Sight Words) is a research-based foundational reading program designed to help students develop the decoding skills necessary for fluent reading. At SLLIS, SIPPS instruction occurs daily during a 30-minute block where students leave their classroom and join a group of reading peers for instruction aligned to each student's needs. SIPPS provides explicit,

systematic instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, high-frequency words, and reading fluency, ensuring that students build a strong foundation for lifelong literacy.

Mathematics

Ready Mathematics is SLLIS's core mathematics curriculum. It is designed to help students develop a deep understanding of mathematical concepts while building procedural fluency and problem-solving skills. Ready Math engages students in rich mathematical thinking through hands-on learning, discussion, real-world applications, and purposeful practice. The curriculum emphasizes conceptual understanding, allowing students to explain their reasoning, make connections between mathematical ideas, and apply their learning to new situations.

ST Math (Spatial-Temporal Math) is a research-based supplemental program that helps students build a deep conceptual understanding of mathematics through visual problem-solving. ST Math does not replace core math instruction, but it is used in addition to Ready Math. ST Math uses interactive, language-free puzzles to teach students key math concepts, which allows them to learn through exploration rather than memorization alone.

In the Chinese Program, Math is taught in Chinese. Chinese Program Teachers rely on the ReadyMath materials and incorporate Chinese as the Language of Instruction.

Science

MySci is an inquiry-based science program designed to engage students in authentic, hands-on investigation aligned to the Missouri Learning Standards for Science. At SLLIS, MySci encourages students to think and work like scientists as they explore real-world phenomena, ask questions, make predictions, and test ideas through structured investigations.

Science is taught in the target language in both The French Program and The Spanish Program. As such, SLLIS has translated all MySci materials into French and Spanish for use in every SLLIS classroom.

Social Studies

TCI (Teachers' Curriculum Institute) is a social studies curriculum that brings history, geography, civics, and economics to life through engaging, inquiry-based instruction. Aligned to the Missouri Learning Standards, TCI helps students develop a deep understanding of social studies content while building critical thinking, reading, writing, and discussion skills.

Social Studies is taught in the target language in both The French Program and The Spanish Program in Grades K-5. In Middle School, Social Studies is taught in the target languages. As such, SLLIS uses the web based version of TCI that allows teachers to translate the page into all three target languages when needed.

French Language Arts

Les Petits Loustics is used in Grades K-1 and is an early elementary French curriculum that builds foundational listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills through engaging, age-appropriate themes and activities.

Cap Sur is used in Grades 2-5 and is a French language program designed to strengthen students' communicative proficiency through structured instruction in vocabulary, grammar, and real-world language use.

À la Une is used in Grades 6-8 and is an upper-level French curriculum that develops advanced literacy and communication skills through authentic texts, thematic units, and culturally rich content.

Spanish Language Arts

Adelante is the Spanish language arts component of the Benchmark curriculum used across grades at SLLIS. Adelante develops students' literacy, language, and communication skills through rich, grade-level texts and research-based instruction. Aligned to ACTFL standards and Spanish language arts expectations, Adelante supports students in building vocabulary, reading comprehension, writing proficiency, and academic discourse in Spanish while reinforcing strong foundational literacy skills across the curriculum.

Chinese Language Arts

Mandarin Matrix is a structured Chinese language curriculum that builds students' listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills through progressive thematic units and explicit language instruction.

Easy Steps to Chinese is a leveled Mandarin program that develops foundational Chinese language proficiency through engaging lessons focused on communication, vocabulary, and character recognition.

Fun China World is an introductory Chinese curriculum designed for young learners that builds early language skills through interactive activities, songs, stories, and cultural exploration.

Pre-K Curriculum

AppleTree is an early childhood curriculum and readiness framework designed to build strong foundational skills. At SLLIS, this program supports high-quality Pre-K instruction that focuses on the key developmental areas children need for long-term academic success, including early literacy, language development, mathematics, social-emotional skills, and executive functioning.

Pre-K classrooms at SLLIS are Dual Language classrooms too. Teachers rely on the AppleTree curriculum to lead students to master Pre-K learning standards within the Dual Language framework. While AppleTree is available in Spanish, SLLIS Pre-K teams have translated many components into Chinese and French to ensure fidelity to the Dual Language structures in these classrooms in our Pre-K.

Standardized Assessments

At SLLIS, we use standardized assessments such as the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP), STAR, and STAMP to measure student learning and growth across key academic areas. These assessments provide consistent, reliable data on student progress in English language arts, mathematics, and language proficiency.

In K-8 education, standardized assessments are important because they help schools understand how students are performing in relation to grade-level standards, identify

areas of strength and need, and monitor growth over time. This information supports instructional planning, targeted interventions, and program improvement to ensure all students are on track for academic success. These tests are also nationally normed, so SLLIS can compare results to other schools across the country.

STAMP

- What is the STAMP Assessment?
 - The STAMP assessment is a standards-based test that measures students' proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing in a world language based on ACTFL proficiency levels.
- Who takes the STAMP?
 - Grades K-1 - 2Se (Speaking and Listening only).
 - Grades 2-6 - 4Se (Speaking, Listening, Reading, and Writing).
 - Grades 7-8 - 4S (Speaking, Listening, Reading, and Writing) . This is the non-elementary version.
- How frequently is it administered?
 - Every school year twice: October and May.
- How are the results used?
 - Measuring student progress in French, Spanish, and Chinese over time.

Star Literacy, Reading, and Math

- What is the Star Assessment?
 - A nationally normed assessment given to students across the country in many schools.
 - Star consists of short tests that provide teachers with personalized learning data for each student.
 - Star tests are computer adaptive, which means they adjust in difficulty to each answer students provide.
- Who takes the Star?
 - Students in Grades K-8 take Star Math.
 - Students in Grades K-2 take Star Early Literacy.
 - Students in Grades 3-8 take Star Reading.
- How frequently is it administered?
 - Every school year three times: September, January, and May

- How are the results used?
 - Measuring student progress and growth over time
 - Additional internal measure to gauge progress

Missouri Assessment Program (MAP)

- What is the MAP Assessment?
 - MAP stand for the Missouri Assessment Program.
 - This is the annual Missouri accountability assessment.
 - The MAP includes Communication Arts, Math, and Science.
- Who takes the MAP?
 - Students in Grades 3-8 take the MAP Communication Arts and Math sections.
 - Studies in Grades 5 and 8 take the MAP Science sections.
- How frequently is it administered?
 - Every school year in April and May
- How are the results used?
 - Missouri accountability system (MSIP6 and APR)
 - To determine comprehensive performance and growth