



Millis Public Schools

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Date: March 10, 2014
To: Nancy Gustafson, Superintendent
Fr: Joan Lynn, Director of Curriculum
Re: ELA purchases

With the adoption of the March 2011 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for English Language Arts and Literary, students are exposed to rigorous and comprehensive standards. These standards are for literacy in history/social studies, science and technical subjects and not restricted to English language arts. An underlying goal for the standards is to lay the foundation for what it means to be a literate person in the 21st century.

Our recent warrant article request stated, "Funding for ELA materials at the Middle School and High School is requested to meet the challenging needs of the Common Core Curriculum Frameworks. The ELA Committee has been working on a comprehensive scope and sequence for grades K-12 addressing the standards outline in the Frameworks..."

Our recent inventory demonstrated that the majority of materials include a collection of anthologies and novels, mostly paperback. The anthology currently used in the 8th grade classroom, *Adventures for Readers Heritage Edition Books One and Two* has a copyright date of 1979. Some of the literary pieces are still used in the classroom, however the books are falling apart. Two textbooks used in the high school, *Literature Across Cultures*, and *Adventures in English Literature* have copyrights 2001 and 1998 respectively. These hard covered books have served us well, but they are worn and tattered. Many of our paperback novels need to be replaced as well, as they have been used by many students.

The warrant funding would provide teachers with the materials and tools to teach the 2011 curriculum. In addition to replacing some books and adding quality pieces of literature, funds are needed to add nonfiction works to the Middle and High Schools' curriculum that connect science and social studies content. For example in grade 9, we would be looking to purchase books like *All Souls* by Michael Patrick MacDonald, a very high interest, nonfiction book about a family growing up in the projects of South Boston during the busing crisis.

Requested materials include but not limited to:

Middle School

- Graphic Novels
- Books about child labor, child slavery (fiction, non-fiction, graphic novels)
- International Books about children
- Books about Epidemics
- High Interest Novels for Independent Reading
- Classics

Online subscriptions
Magazine Subscriptions
Subtext App Supreme Membership
Time for Kids
Science and Social Studies support materials

High School

A Raisin in the Sun
The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian- Sherman Alexie
To Kill A Mockingbird
Oedipus
Night by Elie Wiesel
Ender's Game
Life of Pi
New Anthologies