



SHELBY COUNTY SCHOOLS

“Non-negotiables” for Foundational Skills Instruction Grades K-2

Non-negotiable	Rationale
1. 60 minutes of Foundational Skills instruction, daily*	<i>TDOE recommends</i> at least 60 minutes of foundational skills instruction per day.
2. Grade-appropriate, TN Reading Foundational Literacy standards are addressed	Foundational skills instruction must be aligned to the TN RFL Standards in order to ensure all students are actively engaged and appropriately challenged.
3. Explicit and systematic instruction in phonics, phonological awareness, and grammar	Explicit, systematic instruction involves <i>directly teaching</i> a specific skill or concept in a highly structured and carefully <i>sequenced manner</i> . Research shows that foundational skills instruction should be explicit and systematic.
4. Decodable readers are utilized (whole and/or small group)	Students practice applying their knowledge of foundational skills in <i>phonetically-controlled, connected text</i> to support reading accuracy, fluency, and comprehension.
5. Teacher-led small group instruction** (decodable and/or skills-focused)	Teacher-led small group instruction presents an optimal opportunity to effectively <i>monitor individual oral responses</i> and provide <i>immediate, specific feedback</i> .
6. Literacy work stations or centers	Students practice applying foundational skills knowledge to various <i>literacy tasks</i> that <i>connect to and/or extend</i> previous or new learning--while working independently, with partners, or in groups.
<p>*The literacy block includes 60 minutes of FS instruction AND 60 minutes of meaning-based instruction. **For students who are secure readers, other texts may be utilized.</p>	