

## “Must Do” Guidelines for 2016-2017 *Units of Study* Adoption

### **Teach the Common Core-Aligned D90 Writing Standards**

The D90 Writing Standards (see D90 Staff Site>Common Core>D90 Writing Page>grade level page) will guide instruction for all K-4 writing teachers. Each grade level page on this site includes the grade-specific writing standards, essential learning outcomes, learning targets, and vocabulary.

### **Use *Units of Study* as the core instructional resource for writing**

- Grades 1-4: Teachers will teach *Units of Study* units 1-3 for their respective grade level.
- Kindergarten: Teachers will teach some bends from the kindergarten narrative, opinion, and information *Units of Study* units. Specific information will be provided separately to kindergarten teachers.
- K-4 Team Leaders will keep track of the actual start and end dates for each unit so that a pacing guide can be developed for the 2017-2018 school year.

### **Maintain a common instructional sequence and similar pacing**

- Each Lincoln/Willard grade level team will teach *Units of Study* units 1-3 in sequential order.\*
- Each Lincoln/Willard team will plan for and maintain similar instructional pacing by unit.

### **Assess student writing**

1. *Units of Study* “on demand” performance assessments:
  - Following the directions provided in the *Writing Pathways* assessment book, teachers will administer the genre-specific, “on-demand” performance assessment as a **pre-assessment and post-assessment** for each writing unit (i.e., narrative, information, and opinion writing) in grades 1-4. Kindergarten teachers will administer the narrative pre-assessment and post-assessment only.
2. Collaborative scoring of “on-demand” performance assessments:
  - Teachers will collaboratively score some students’ “on-demand” performance assessments for narrative, opinion, and information writing using the *Units of Study* genre-specific rubrics. A long-term goal of this work is to establish common expectations for student writing by genre that are vertically-aligned. A short-term goal of this work is to establish a common understanding of each rubric so that student writing is scored consistently.
  - After the collaborative scoring of each genre, teachers will score their own students’ “on-demand” performance assessments before and after each unit.

- During the 2016-17 school year, teachers will be provided with professional development and scheduled time (e.g., release time, professional collaboration, etc.) for this work.
3. Other formative and summative writing assessments:
- Teachers will use the *Units of Study* rubrics and checklists for any other formative or summative assessment of students' narrative, opinion, and information writing.

### Engage in reflection and provide feedback

- Teachers will be asked to provide their feedback about writing instruction in D90 (e.g., D90 Writing Standards, use of *Units of Study*, use of rubrics and checklists, professional development) during the 2016-2017 school year. The feedback will be used to inform future planning.

## “May Do” Guidelines for 2016-2017 *Units of Study* Adoption

### • May use other *Units of Study* resources from respective grade level kit

- Teachers may teach the *Units of Study* unit 4 for their respective grade level.
- Teachers may teach any unit(s) from the *Units of Study If...Then..Curriculum* book for their respective grade level.

### • May re-sequence the teaching of *Units of Study* units 1-3\*

- Lucy Calkins recommends that teachers in grades K-2 teach *Units of Study* units 1-3 in order; however, any grade level may consider re-sequencing the units.
- A Lincoln/Willard grade level team may collaboratively decide to re-sequence *Units of Study* units 1-3. The team would need to communicate the plan and rationale for re-sequencing to the elementary school principals and the Director of Student Services via email.

## Recommended Guideline for 2016-2017 *Units of Study* Adoption

### • Teach *Units of Study* writing 5 times per week in grades 1-4 and 3 times per week in kindergarten