As part of the Literacy By 3 Plan, HISD is transforming literacy instruction to increase student learning through a systematic and balanced approach to teaching reading. Through this approach, HISD students will have the opportunity to receive instruction using “just right” books, practice students’ reading, hear models of fluent reading, and engage in thoughtful discussions and writing.

The HISD Elementary Curriculum and Development Office will provide aligned, standards-based, balanced, and engaging Curriculum Scope and Sequence and Unit Planning Guides. These documents specify the standards to be taught for each grade level that will effectively prepare students for local, state, and national assessments, including STAAR, and instill a passion for reading. The HISD Curriculum and Literacy By 3 approach address the following key components:

1. **Phonics/Word Work**: Students engage in explicit instruction of sounds and their spellings. A variety of systematic phonics instruction tools are accessible to enable students to make the connection between decoding, word recognition, reading, and spelling skills.

2. **Guided Reading**: Students engage in daily instruction with leveled text as a part of teacher facilitated small group instruction using “just right” books.

3. **Independent Reading**: Students engage in daily reading in-school and at-home on their independent level to practice reading, build stamina, and read for enjoyment.

4. **Read Alouds**: Students engage in teacher facilitated Read-Alouds to think critically about texts, articulate and support ideas about concepts shared in books, build comprehension of fiction and non-fiction text, and hear models of fluent reading.

5. **Writing Instruction**: Students engage in meaningful activities addressing the process of writing by using authentic experiences that teach students how to focus on a variety of audiences and write for many purposes.

6. **Data Driven Instruction**: Teachers and campus leaders collect, analyze, and make instructional decisions based on data including iStation, Running Records, classroom observations, interim common assessments, district level assessments, and standardized testing.