LEXIA Intervention (2017-18)

Lexia Reading is a web-based reading intervention that focuses on:

- Foundational reading development for students pre-K to Grade 5 (Lexia Core5), and
- Reading development for struggling readers in Grades 6 -12 (Lexia PowerUp).

Lexia Core5 is an evidence-based individualized reading intervention that provides explicit, systematic, structured practice on the <u>essential reading skills</u> of:

- Phonological Awareness,
- Phonics,
- Structural Analysis,
- Automaticity/Fluency,
- Vocabulary, and
- Comprehension

Lexia PowerUp has students working online in three different instructional strands. The three strands are:
- Word Study
- Grammar, and
- Comprehension

The three strands improve student proficiency and independence in reading and understanding complex, authentic texts. In April 2018, Grade 5-8 student licenses were migrated to Lexia PowerUp. Most PowerUp licenses are beginning to be used in 2018-2019 school year.

Students practice and learn these skills by interacting with the online program, as well as by receiving teacher-led Lexia lessons and paper-based practice activities. Students can access Lexia Reading from school, home, public library, etc.

TCDSB implements Lexia as a Tier 2 and Tier 3 intervention to facilitate the development of reading skills for students. Through SBSLT endorsement, students are eligible for Lexia implementation if they are significantly below grade level in their reading skills, **AND** who are:

- identified as Exceptional (primarily LD or LI), **OR**
- assessed as LD or LI or referred for assessment, **OR**
- discussed by SBSLT and have an IEP

The Lexia Reading software also delivers norm-referenced performance data and analysis for each individual student, through the software application. Teachers use the data to track achievement and tailor instruction.

Students currently enrolled in *Empower^{TM} Reading: Decoding and Spelling* are <u>not</u> <u>eligible</u> for Lexia Reading implementation. However, former Empower students who require additional support are eligible if endorsed by SBSLT.

In the Fall of 2017-18 schools were invited to apply for their eligible students. 285 centrally available licenses were distributed to students with LD or LI learning profile or identification (approximately 52 schools received licenses). In late September 2017, 285 licenses were distributed and training was provided by Lexia to teachers who would be using the program throughout the year. In October 2017, approximately 85 teachers and 8 APTs participated in that training.

In September 2018, a teacher survey was conducted and teachers using Lexia were asked to fill it out. Results are below:

- 58 teachers completed the survey – however, not all teachers responded to every question.
- 14 teachers started using the software during/before the 2015-2016 school year (24%)
- 23 teachers started using the software during the 2017-18 school year (40%)
- Almost three quarters of teachers responding attended the September 2017 training session (74%)
- More than half of the teachers responding access on-demand training videos (57%)
- Most students who use the program are in the Junior division and have an identification of LD or LI
- Almost half of teachers responding indicate their students gained

3 or 4 levels (45%) and over one fifth gained 5 or more levels (22%)

- Fewer than one third of teachers report difficulties using the software (29%)
- Most teachers report that the software is effective or very effective supporting student reading decoding skills (93%)
- And almost all teachers reported that the software is useful or very useful (95%)
- The greatest student gains were reported to be in the area of decoding skills. Teachers also reported large gains in terms of self-confidence, independence, reading fluency, and computer skills.