



Designing the Future of Early

A Cross-State Collaboration for Experiential Classrooms

Learning



Huckabee

Introductions



Holly Teague

Director of Planning, Huckabee



Traci Boyles

*Executive Director of
Early Childhood Education, School
District of Pickens County*

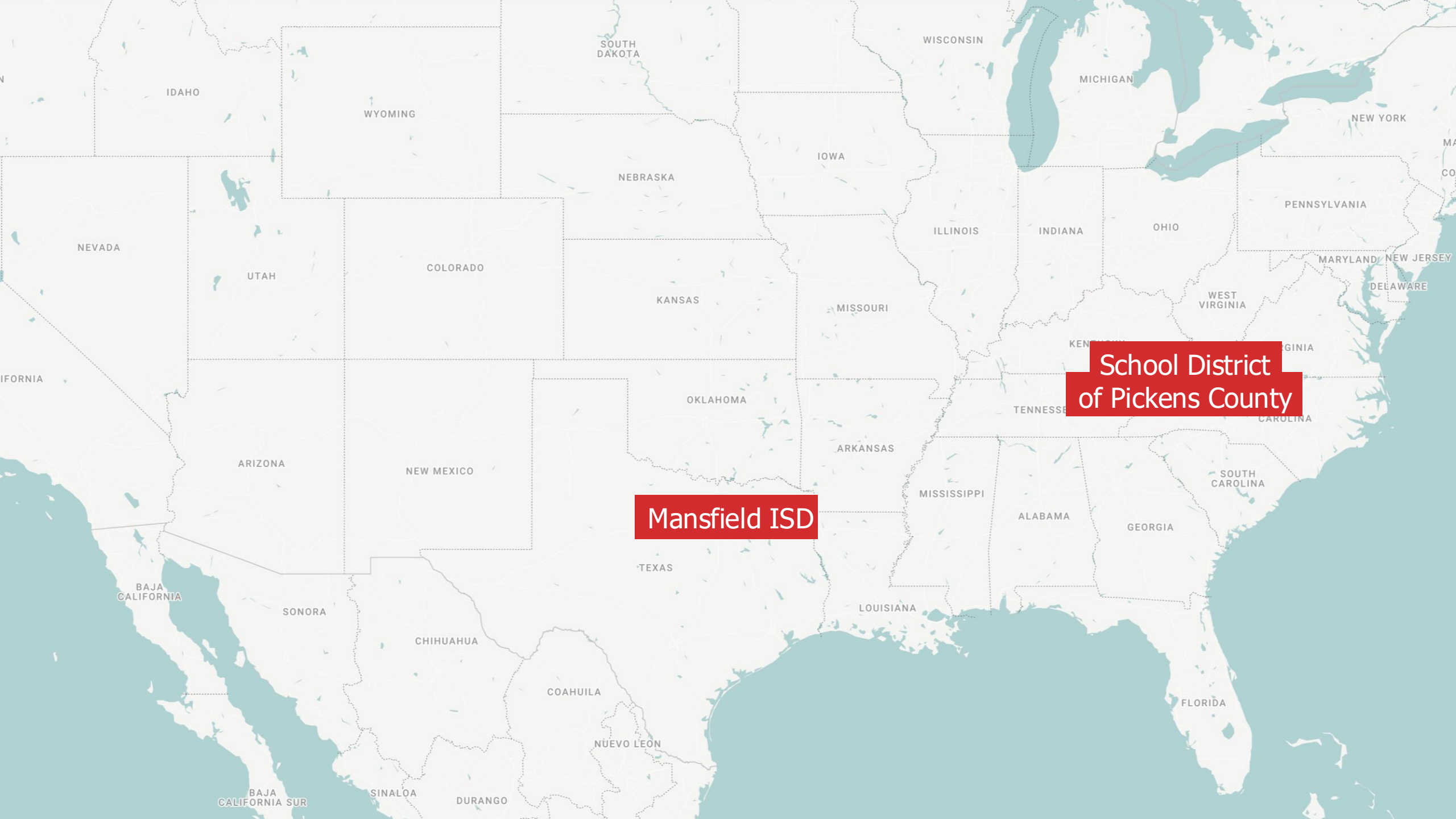


Ashton Oliver

*Director of Early Childhood, Jandrucko
Academy for Early Learners, Mansfield
ISD*



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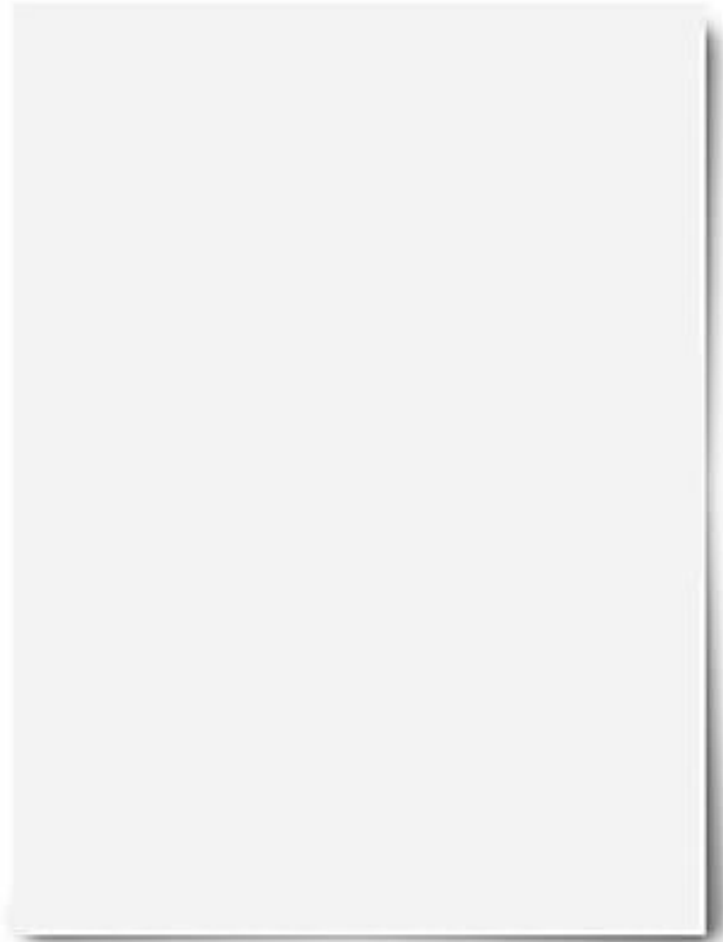
Mansfield ISD

School District
of Pickens County

Agenda

- Your Experience with Pre-K
- WHY?
- Early Childhood (we divide this section up)
 - Research
 - Science of Teaching Reading
 - Conceptual Packaging
- Early Childhood – Huckabee Journey
- Early Childhood – Mansfield ISD 2.0
- Early Childhood – School District Pickens County
- Questions / Comments

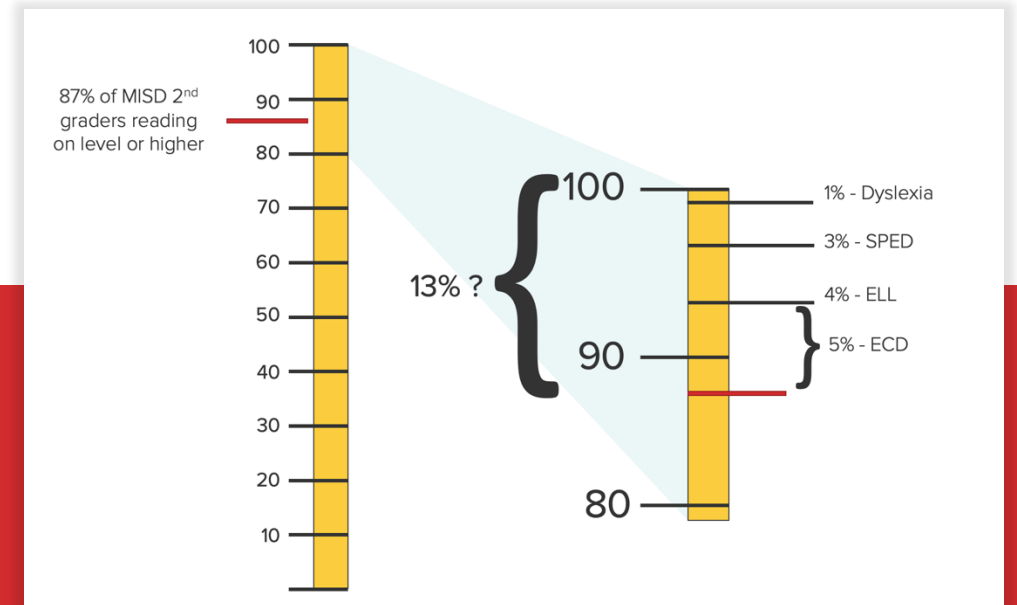
Typical Pre-K Classroom



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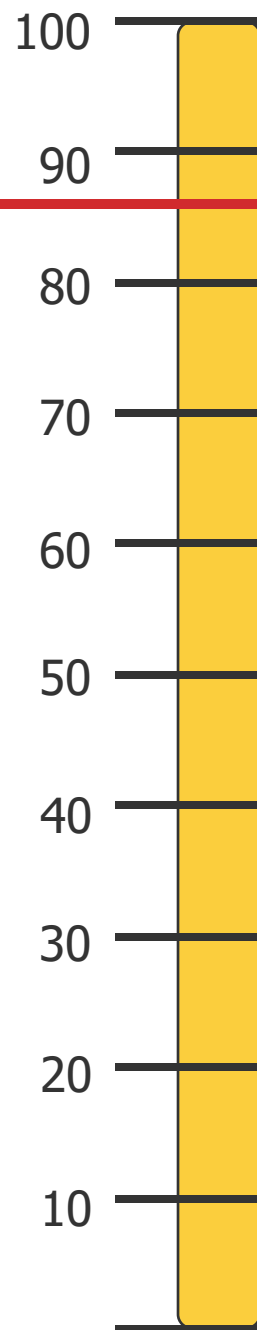


Dr. Sarah K. Jandrucko
ACADEMY
FOR EARLY LEARNERS
Perfectly Designed for Inquiring Young Minds



**OUR
WHY**

87% of MISD 2nd graders reading on level or higher

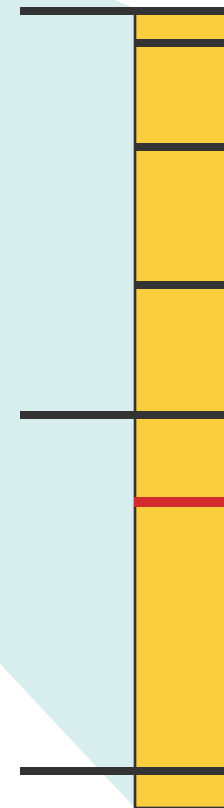


13% ?

100

90

80

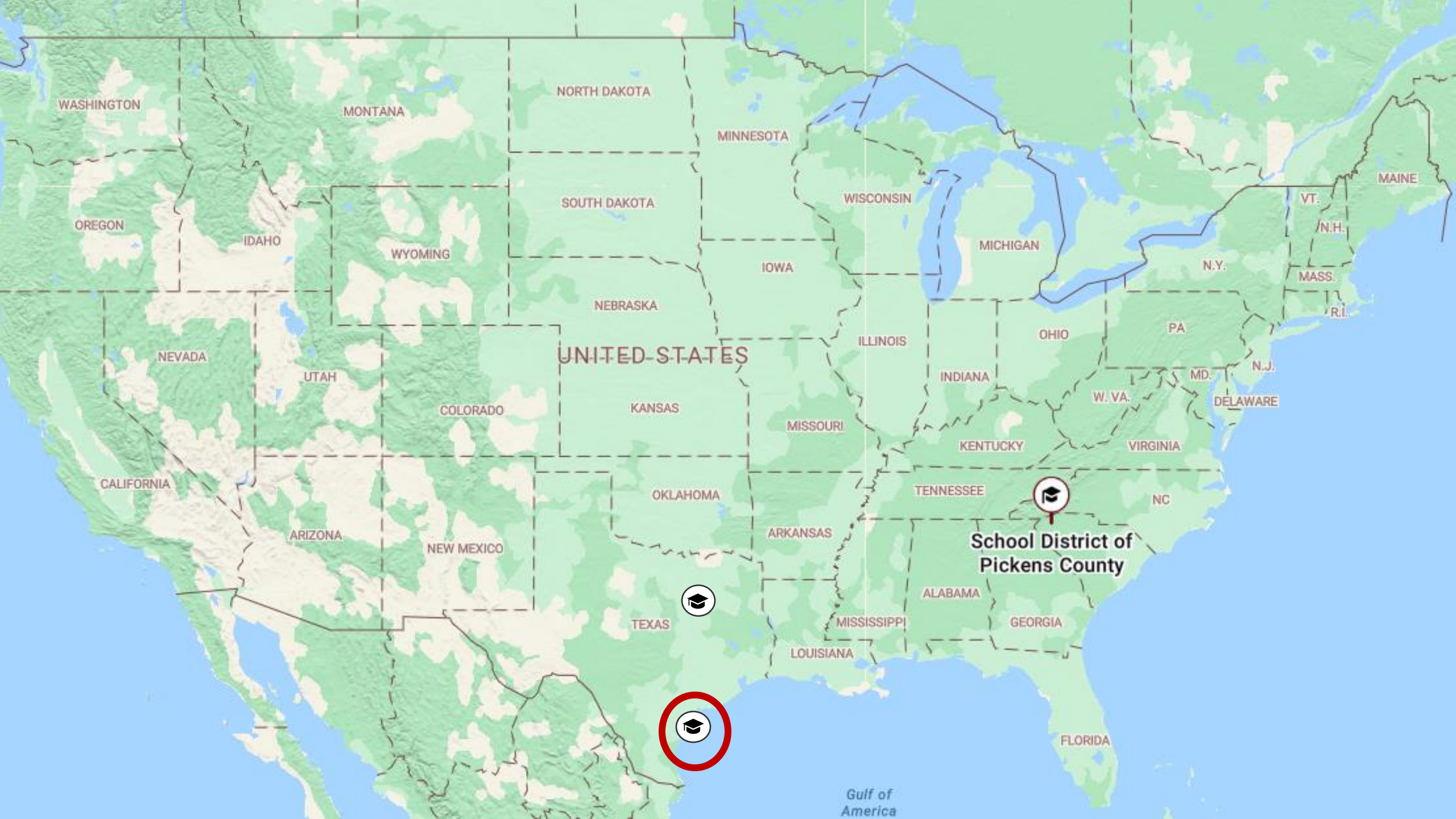


1% - Dyslexia

3% - SPED

4% - ELL

5% - ECD



School District of
Pickens County

“During the primary years, real world experiences are the most important thing schools provide. As we all know, children learn by doing. They remember what they have personally experienced. In addition, concept development is optimized through **active, explorative experiences.**”

Nabors, Edwards, Murray, 2009

THE BASEBALL STUDY

RECHT & LESLIE, 1988



30,000,000 WORDS

BETTY HART & TODD RISLEY, 1995



Center on the Developing Child
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Serve and return interactions are critical because the brain is wired to expect this kind of back and forth interaction. **It's the way the brain builds its circuits and the way the brain develops capacity for different skills.**

-Jack Shonkoff, MD

Why Experience-Based Pre-K? – The Research

Why Pre-Kindergarten?

30,000,000

Source: University of Kansas researchers Betty Hart and Todd Risley, 1995.

Why Experience-Based Pre-K? – The Research

Same Research

Ratio - Encouragement to Discouragement

Professionals	6:1
Working-Class	2:1
Families on Welfare	1:2

Source: University of Kansas researchers Betty Hart and Todd Risley, 1995.

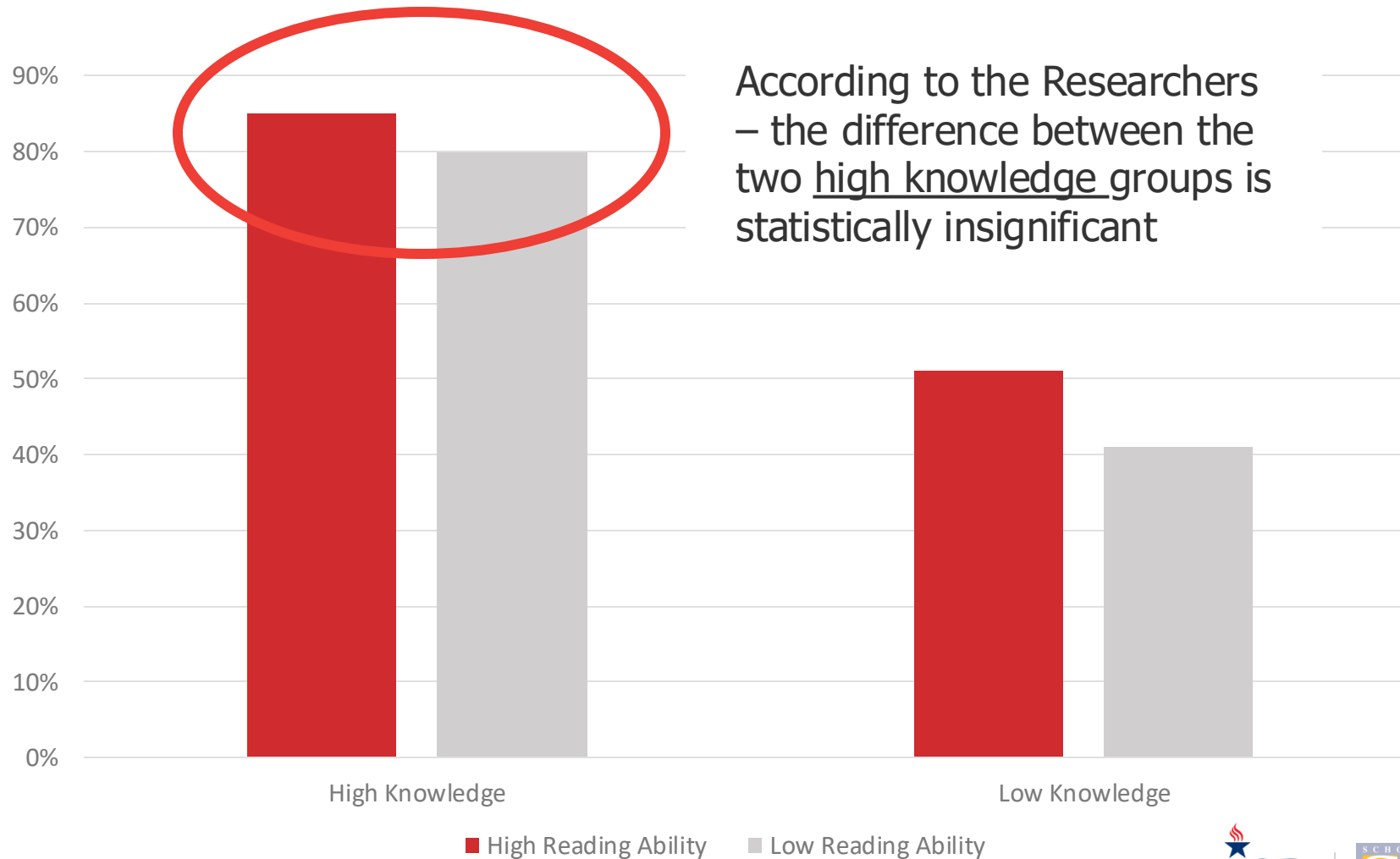


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The Baseball Study

READING ABILITY	High Reading Ability Low Knowledge of Baseball	High Reading Ability High Knowledge of Baseball
	Low Reading Ability Low Knowledge of Baseball	Low Reading Ability High Knowledge of Baseball
		Reading Ability High: $\geq 70\%$ Low: $\leq 30\%$
KNOWLEDGE OF BASEBALL		

The Baseball Study





Districts Try with Limited Success to Reduce Chronic Absenteeism

Melissa Kay Diliberti, Lydia R. Rainey, Lisa Chu, Heather L. Schwartz, 2024

Early Childhood Education Journal

Pre-K and Kindergarten Teacher Perception of School Readiness During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Kayla Murphy, Keri Giordano, Tanaysha Deloach, 2023



More Evidence for Moving Past “Finding the Main Idea”

A knowledge-based approach to reading comprehension is far more effective.

Edutopia 2023 Research Highlights

“I think there’s enough research that shows that [just teaching] reading strategies is not conducive to [helping students] read challenging text independently”

- Heidi Foley, Literacy Coach, 2024

The 10 Most Significant Education Studies of 2023



In a recent study published in *Early Childhood Education Journal*—years after the pandemic’s peak—nearly 80 percent of preschool and kindergarten teachers reported that newly arriving **students were performing “worse” or “much worse” than their pre-pandemic peers, and faced steep deficits in emotional regulation and literacy.** By the summer of 2024, *The New York Times* had picked up the story, writing that dozens of teachers, pediatricians, and other experts were alarmed by a new generation of “pandemic babies” who were **“less likely to be able to hold a pencil, communicated their needs, identify shapes and letters, manage their emotions, or solve problems with peers.”**

School systems may be forced to make commensurate changes. For early childhood teachers, that could mean more focus on classroom routines and student self-regulation, while district leaders interviewed by RAND suggest that **chronic absenteeism may “not improve without new approaches to make school more engaging.”**

Now a pair of high-quality studies—featuring leading researchers and encompassing more than 5,000 students in 39 schools—appears to put the finishing touches on a decades-long effort to push background knowledge to the forefront of reading instruction.

Youki Terada, Stephen Merrill, 2024

THE SCIENCE OF TEACHING READING



Early Learning

Prekindergarten:

- Background Knowledge
- Life Experiences
- Cognitive Skills
- Motivation

Conceptual Packaging

The image shows a children's museum exhibit with a space theme. The walls are covered in vibrant murals of galaxies and planets. A large white rocket ship play structure is the central feature, with children inside. To the right, a large mural of Earth is visible. In the foreground, there's a table with toys and a sign that says "HOW DOES PLUTO FEEL TODAY?". The floor has a yellow circular path and star patterns. The text "Conceptual Packaging" is overlaid in the center.

Conceptual Packaging

PK INSTRUCTIONAL TIME



Learning Centers



Small-Group Math & Literacy Instruction



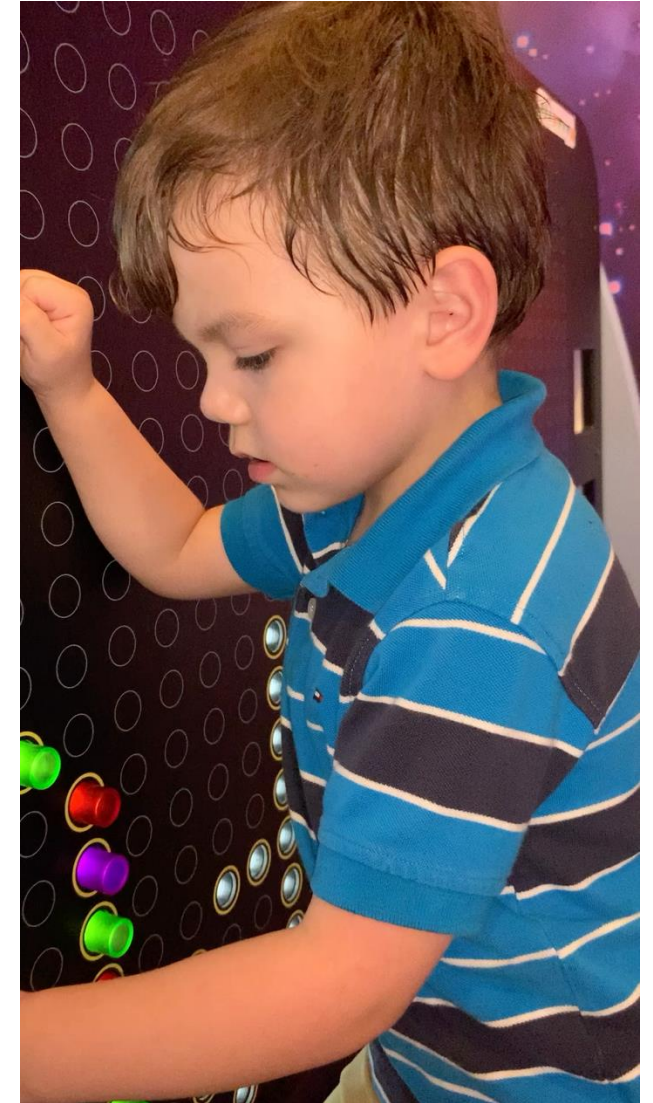
Music, Movement, Mindfulness



Read-Aloud

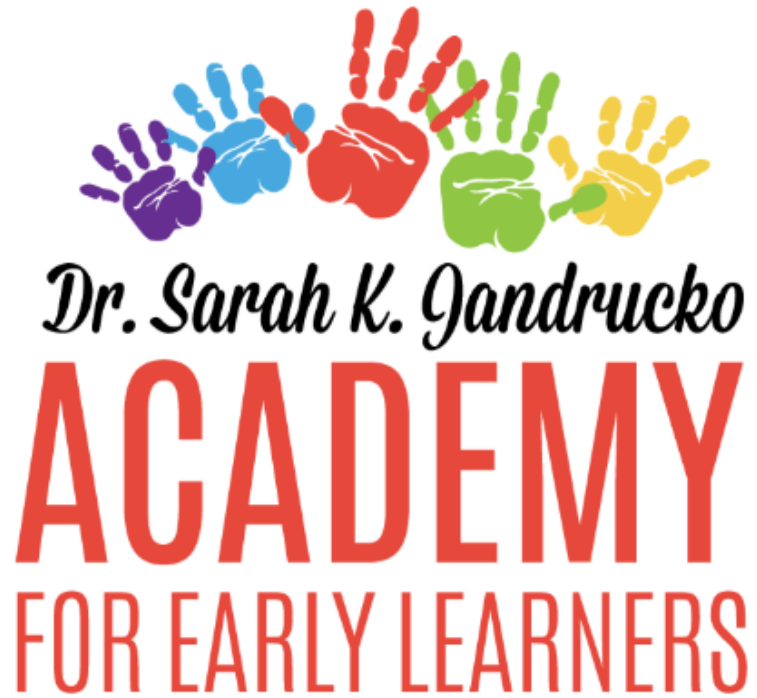


Community Building & Teacher Modeling



Child begins to **RECOGNIZE
AND CREATE PATTERNS**

16 Experiences



Navigation

Space
Wonderland
Let's Get Going
Journey in Time

Investigation

Zoo
Pet Central
My Green House
Wonderful, Amazing Me

Interaction

Our World
Savvy's Market
Community
Construction

Exploration

Tropics
Savanna
Ocean
Polar



Conceptual Packaging

PK INSTRUCTIONAL TIME



Learning Centers



Small-Group Math & Literacy Instruction



Music, Movement, Mindfulness



Read-Aloud



Community Building & Teacher Modeling



V.E.3—Child begins to **RECOGNIZE AND CREATE PATTERNS.**



V.A 1—Child knows that objects or parts of an object **CAN BE COUNTED**

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Curriculum

Learning Through a Themed Lens

Phonological Awareness

- B.1 Child separates a normally spoken four-word sentence into individual words
- B.2 Child combines words to make a compound word
- B.3 Child deletes a word from a compound word
- B.4 Child blends syllables into words
- B.5 Child can segment a syllable from a word
- B.6 Child can recognize rhyming words

Time to form a familiar one syllable word
 rial support
 lends spoken phonemes into
 ritorial support.

Science Knowledge and Phonological

SPACE ROCK letters



[Moon Rock ABC](#)

SPACE NAME activity



[Pool Noodle Name Rockets](#)
 (combine ideas)

Spell-A-Star



[ABC UC/LC Match](#)

SPACE SYLLABLES



[Space Syllables](#)

ROCKET LANDINGS

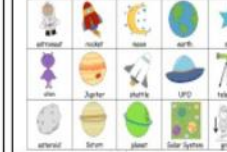


[Onset and Rime](#)



[Cut in Half and Match](#)

Space Word Bank



[Space Word wall](#)
[Space word wall 2](#)

Countdown to Blast Off



[Finger Play - Space Rhyme](#)

Help the Astronaut get back to the spaceship!



[Race to the Spaceship \(can edit letters\)](#)

MATHEMATICS

5 DAYS

Counting

Addition/Subtraction

Geometry

5 DAYS

Patterns

Measurement

Instruction/Activities
 CLI pgs. 452-458



[Playdoh Space Mats-Identify and count](#)



[Space Trace](#)-Trace the number on the mat and count out that many objects.



[Feed the Planet](#)-Students draw or a given a number and they have to feed their planet that amount of space objects

Instruction/Activities
 CLI pgs. 458-465



[Story Mats](#)- use planets/earth erasers to create a pictorial model and share verbal word problem for objects up to 5



[Addition/Subtraction Stories](#)- Use the rockets to guide story problems. Provide star manipulatives.



[Build a Space Scene](#)- Teacher tells students a story problem and students use manipulatives or stickers on a space mat to match (two rockets and five stars, three astronauts and two planets, etc.)

Instruction/Activities
 CLI pgs. 466-471



[Places in Space](#)-Teacher uses the direction cards to guide students to organize the planets in the right location.



[Making Shapes](#): Students will use play doh shape mats to create their shapes.

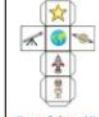


[Flipping In Space](#)- Describe the shapes; sliding/ flipping/ turning shapes to demonstrate that shapes remain the same

Instruction/Activities
 CLI pgs. 472-475



[Object Sorting](#): Students will sort different sizes of Pom Pom "planets" into various categories.



[Graphing/Sorting/Collecting Data](#): Students will roll space die and tally data on dry erase boards.



[Recognizing and Creating Patterns](#)-Students will recognize and repeat a teacher created pattern. ie: star; star; moon; crater; star; star; moon; crater. Teacher can come up with motions to represent each word.

Instruction/Activities
 CLI pgs. 452-458



[Space NON-Standard measuring](#)



[Distance from the Sun](#)- Order the planets from shortest distance to longest



[Space Size Sort](#)

[Measuring Capacity activity](#): Using foil moon rocks students will fill different size containers and recognize how much can be placed within an object.

SPACE

TLW identify and describe day and night.
 TLW observe objects in the sky.

12 Experiences

4 Rooms Per Site - Experience Changes Every 12 Weeks



Watch It Grow!	Our Backyard & Beyond	Our Community	Our World
1. Pet Central 2. Farmer's Market 3. Greenhouse & Gardens	1. Lakeside Wonders 2. Blue Ridge Adventures 3. Let's Get Going	1. Wonderful, Amazing Me 2. Community Helpers 3. Main Street	1. Tropics 2. Ocean 3. Polar



Pet Central



Farmer's Market



Greenhouse & Gardens

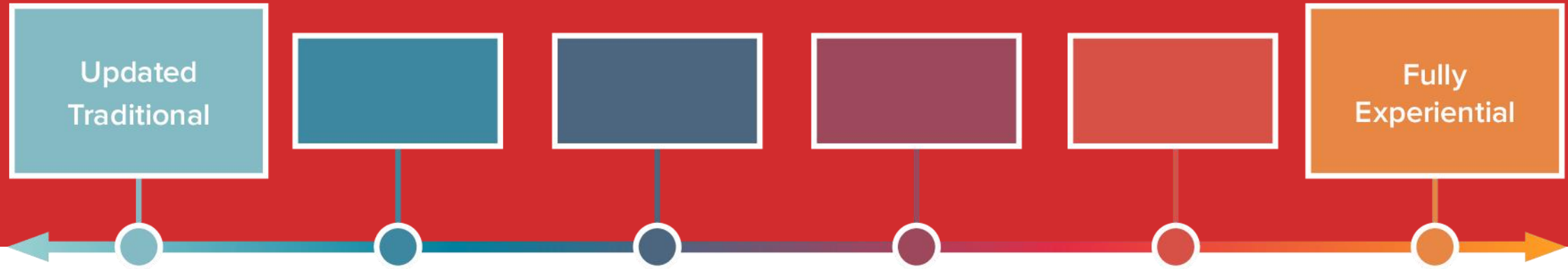
Curriculum

Learning Through a Themed Lens

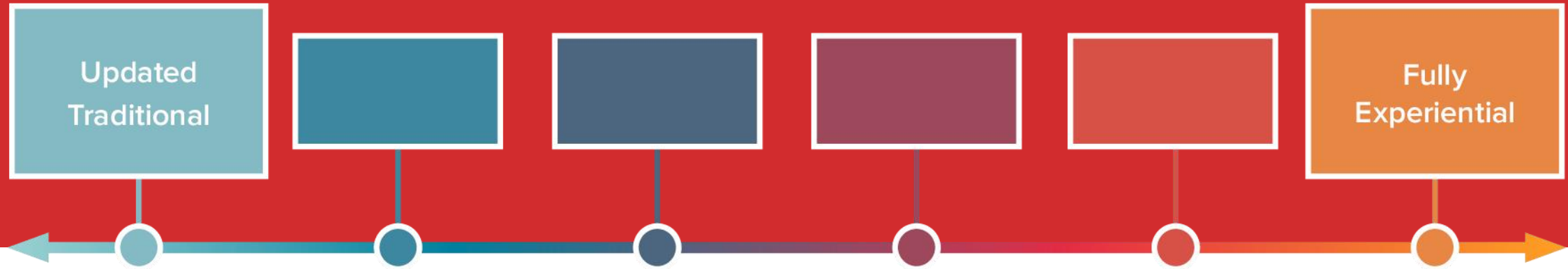
Theme	Creative Curriculum	K-2 Science & Social Studies Standards	Career Clusters - State Memo Link National Career Clusters Framework
Greenhouse & Gardens Farmer's Market Pet Central	Pets Unit Pet Central: A direct connection to exploring pet care, responsibilities, and how animals play a role in families and communities.	K-LS1-1: Observing patterns in the needs of plants and animals, such as water, light, and food K.E.1: Differentiating between wants and needs, like food from gardens and markets	Pet Central Healthcare & Human Services (Animal Systems, Veterinary Science, Human Services)
	Insects/Garden Grow Your Garden: Focuses on the role of insects in pollination, plant growth, and the garden ecosystem.	1-LS1-1: Designing solutions to human problems by mimicking plant or animal adaptations 1.E.1: Comparing goods and services in communities, like farmers' roles	Greenhouse & Garden Agriculture (Plant Systems, Horticulture)
	Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Grow Your Garden: Highlights composting and sustainable gardening practices. Farmer's Market: Explores recycling and sustainable practices in food production and packaging.	2-LS2-1: Investigating what plants need to grow (light, water, soil) 2-LS2-2: Modeling how animals help disperse seeds or pollinate plants 2.G.3: Explaining how land use and resources affect economic activities, such as farming and gardening	Farmer's Market Agriculture (Plant Systems, Food Science & Processing, Agribusiness)
	Baking Bread Farmer's Market: Connects to learning about where food comes from and how goods like bread are made and sold.		



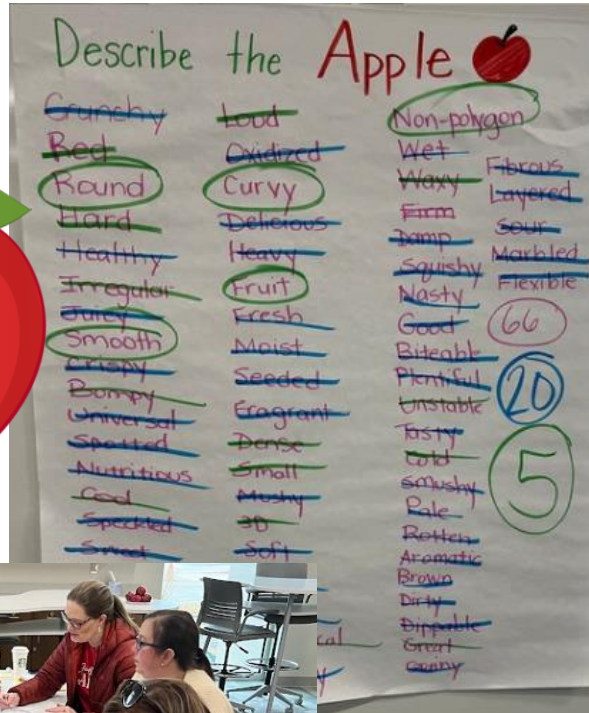
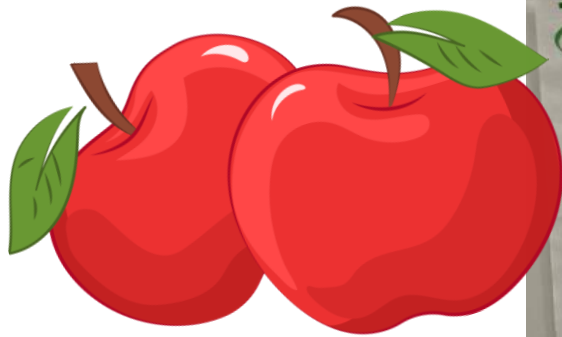
Early Childhood Instructional / Design Approaches



Early Childhood Instructional / Design Approaches



Apple Activity



Nutrition Facts

Real World

During the primary years, real world experiences are the most important thing schools provide. As we all know, children learn by doing. They remember what they have personally experienced. In addition, concept development is optimized through active, explorative experiences.

Nabors, Edwards, Murray, 2009

	% Daily Value
Real World	100
-Vocabulary	
-Background Knowledge	
-Experiences	
-Concept Development	
-Retention	
Learn by Doing	100
-Hands-on	
-Manipulate	
-Play	

Bringing Learning to Life

Name: _____

Syllables: Fruits

Directions: Write the number of syllables in each word below.

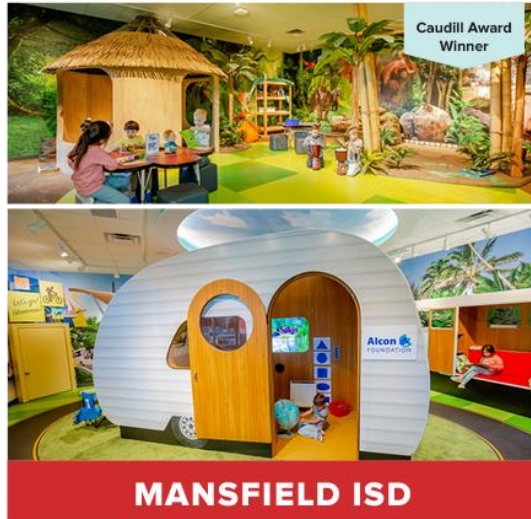
 apple 1 2 3	 bananas 1 2 3	 grapes 1 2 3
 orange 1 2 3	 strawberry 1 2 3	 pear 1 2 3
 blackberries 1 2 3	 fruit 1 2 3	 watermelon 2 3 4

Directions: Put a slash between each syllable in the words below.
example: rai/n/bow

1. strawberry	2. apple	3. bananas
4. blackberries	5. watermelon	6. orange



Experiential Design Innovation



2018



Experiential Design Innovation



TEXAS CITY ISD



DUNCANVILLE ISD



SD OF PICKENS COUNTY

TODAY



NORTHWEST ISD



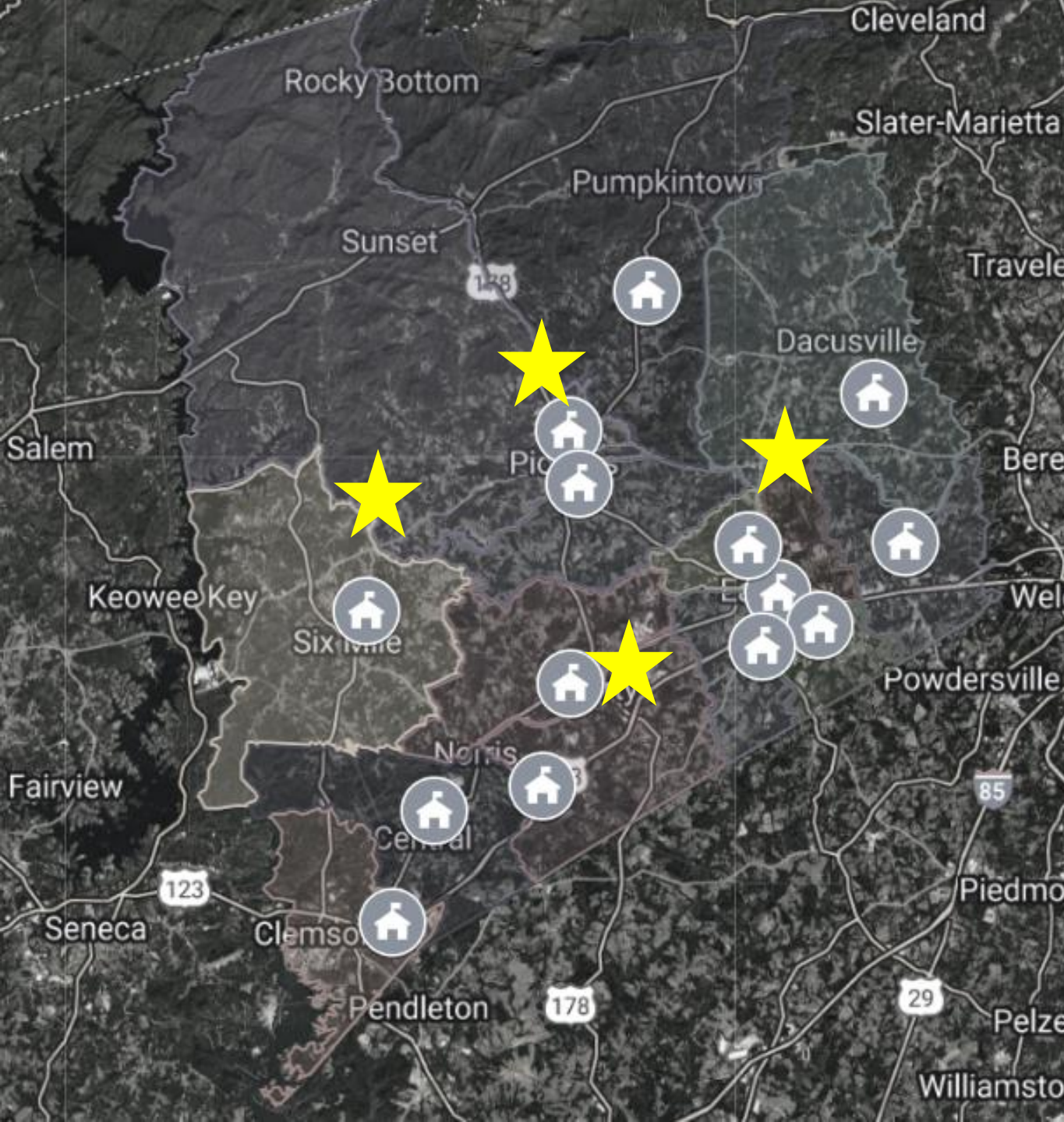
MANSFIELD ISD 2.0



ALLEN ISD

MANSFIELD ISD ELA 2 CONCEPTUAL DESIGN
TROPICS VIEW 1





4 SCHOOLS
4 PRINCIPALS
16 TEACHERS

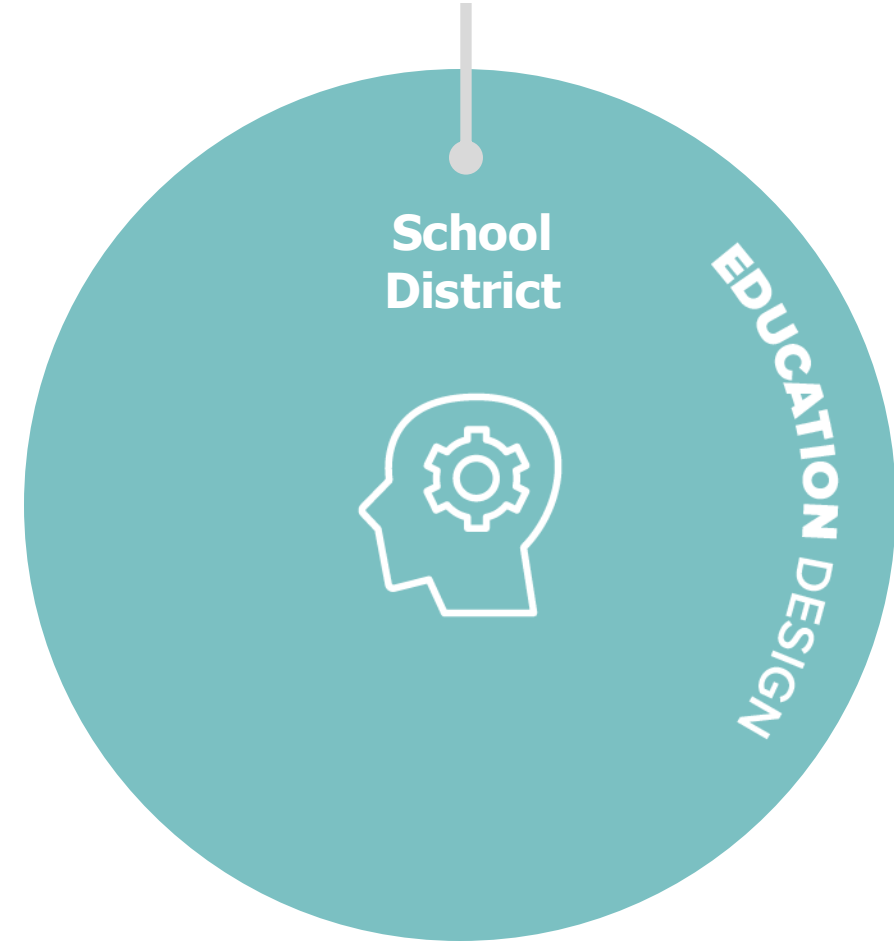
ONE SYSTEM
ENSURING THE
EXPERIENCE



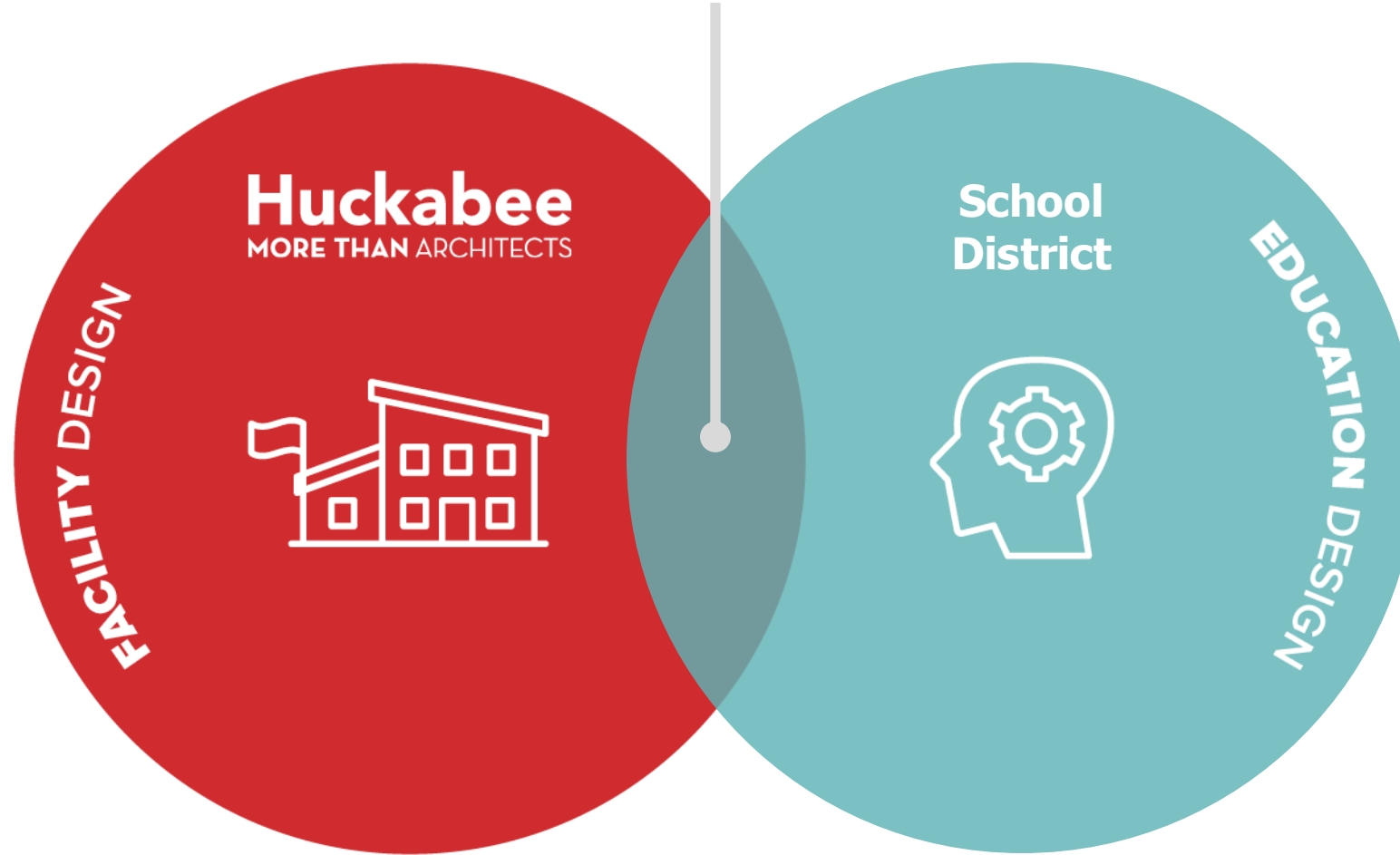
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LEARNING EXPERIENCES



LEARNING EXPERIENCES



Rich learning experiences occur at the nexus of great environments and a compelling curriculum

Source: Learning by Design, Nair & Doctori with Elmore, 2020, pg. 15.

Getting Started



PROFESSIONAL LEARNING



TIME & SUPPORT



COLLABORATION





Experiential Learning

Every space that the child encounters supports curriculum, experience and their social / emotional wellbeing

BE INTENTIONAL!

Contact Information



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MUSD

SCHOOL DISTRICT
SDPC
PICKENS COUNTY

Huckabee