



## Amplify ELA Background

Amplify ELA's new edition was designed to respond to the distinct challenges and opportunities faced by middle school students and teachers. This fully blended program supports digital, print and hybrid classrooms and works with teachers to establish a classroom where students thrive academically, socially, and emotionally, while developing the essential skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. The program helps teachers ensure that skills are taught, standards are covered, and the test is prepped—and it does this work in the background, so that teachers can spend their time bringing the text to life and providing each student the right instruction at the right time.

### Critical and collaborative engagement

Amplify ELA lessons foster a classroom community that thrives on a wide range of student observations. The lessons immerse students in interactive close reading activities and cognitively challenging work, and keep them engaged through a variety of collaborative, digital, and project-oriented learning opportunities. Integrated approach/ targeted objectives Students explore the most compelling aspects of text passages with instruction that targets key standards. By integrating analytic reading practices, evidence-based writing, and academic discussion, students are able to harness and develop the power of their ideas.

### Text at the center

Great texts spark curiosity, reveal layered meanings, reflect a diversity of perspectives and identities, and cultivate meaningful conversation and reflection. Amplify puts complex text at the center of every lesson and activity to develop the critical capacities and build the vocabulary, knowledge, and skills students need to succeed in middle school, high school, and beyond.

The design of every Amplify ELA unit begins with the selection of rich, complex texts that focus on topics and themes relevant to middle school students. Units are then designed to target the most powerful aspects of each text and engage students in a multitude of activities that put text at the center of instruction. Texts become more complex throughout the year as students' reading skills

grow, adding up to a rigorous sequence that rewards effort and builds knowledge across subject areas.

### Multimodal and strategic technology

Amplify ELA welcomes students into a vibrant community of readers and writers. Each activity is designed to support meaningful student interactions with the text and with their peers. Activities harness multiple learning modes, using media tools, digital apps, and a variety of visual and physical experiences to strategically support and enhance student learning. Unique multimodal experiences such as apps and Quests keep students engaged, while supplemental resources such as the Poetry in America units, Amplify Library, Novel Guides, and Grammar units support and extend learning.

### High expectations/ strong supports

Distinct levels of differentiation mean that all students—struggling readers, students ready for advanced work, English language learners—can take on the challenge of rigorous work while data delivery and digital tools allow teachers to make real time, strategic decisions about the support needed to ensure progress. Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles are at the heart of Amplify ELA, so the core curriculum is accessible to most students. For those needing additional help, five levels of differentiation are embedded within the lessons for seamless assignment of needed supports.

### Timely feedback and actionable data

Embedded formative assessment measures and targeted feedback tools mean teachers can make timely decisions about instructional strategies and provide the guidance students need to thrive as readers and writers. Amplify ELA builds these formative assessment moments into each lesson, so that teachers receive important data without having to stop teaching. The feedback tools within the classwork app allows teachers to quickly access and review all student work, view any auto-assessment of that work (including automated writing evaluation for essential writing skills), and provide targeted, written feedback that drives learning and engagement.

### Support for varying learning environments

Amplify ELA supports a wide variety of instructional scenarios, including:

In-person learning / online

In-person learning / offline

Remote learning / online

Remote learning / offline

The seamless integration of print and digital resources supports teachers and students in transferring flexibly from one instructional model to another as circumstances may dictate.

## **Amplify ELA research base**

Grounded in learning science and tailored for the middle grades, Amplify ELA is a strong integrated curriculum that promotes a rigorous and riveting classroom culture around literacy for all. Amplify ELA is based on extensive research into learning, cognition, and how students develop literacy skills. The program challenges all students to work critically and successfully with complex text, taking into account the specific developmental needs and motivations of this age group.

### **The Amplify ELA curriculum is built on key research-based pillars:**

- 1. A focus on middle grade engagement:* Middle grade students are peer oriented and thrive when given collaborative, social, and experiential learning opportunities. Amplify ELA leverages adolescents' natural inclinations toward collaboration, exploration, and autonomy, in the careful selection of engaging texts, in collaborative activities, and in student-led inquiry-based immersive interactive learning experiences. In addition, feelings of competence, relatedness, and autonomy are paramount to intrinsic motivation with adolescent learners, and Amplify ELA fosters these through components such as differentiated support, frequent feedback, student-led discussions, and routines that build a collaborative, productive, and empathetic community of readers and writers.
- 2. Text at the center:* Research suggests that students should work with a rich balance of fiction and informational text to build knowledge of both world and word. Providing students with domain-specific complex texts enables them to build critical literacy skills and gain necessary content knowledge. Studies also stress the importance of including a variety of engaging texts that appeal to culturally diverse students. Amplify places engaging rigorous texts that reflect a range of cultures, ethnicities, and experiences at the center of each learning experience, sequenced so that students continue to build knowledge as they progress to the next grade.
- 3. Integrated Reading and writing.* To write well, students need to become skillful readers of texts. Amplify ELA's effective instruction in reading comprehension emphasizes close reading—the intensive analysis of high-quality text “in order to come to terms with what it says, how it says it, and what it means.” Additionally, strong writing instruction and practice improves reading comprehension and fluency. Therefore, writing and reading activities are highly connected in the Amplify ELA curriculum. Students in Amplify ELA write regularly for an authentic audience and are given frequent writing prompts to both paraphrase and interpret the texts they are reading
- 4. Deeply embedded Vocabulary.* Vocabulary knowledge plays a critical role in reading comprehension and overall academic success, and research suggests vocabulary instruction should include frequent, varied, direct, and contextualized exposures to words - particularly regular and varied encounters with Tier Two and academic vocabulary. Amplify's approach to vocabulary instruction encompasses all of these components, and Amplify ELA's embedded Vocab App provides students with differentiated content drawn from the texts in their current unit.
- 5. High expectations and strong supports:* Amplify ELA meets students where they are while maintaining grade-level rigor for all. Research on differentiated instruction shows broad benefits in student achievement and school satisfaction for a wide variety of learners. Amplify provides six levels of activities, designed to support a range of English Learners (ELs), students with special needs, and advanced students.

6. *Active, multimodal, and collaborative learning:* Students thrive when classroom activities are social and varied. Amplify ELA employs direct instruction, student-centered active learning, multimodal instruction, and ample opportunity for student collaboration. Additionally, the middle school movement calls for instruction that gets students to actively construct knowledge through problem-solving, questioning, or inquiry, and Amplify students have many opportunities for active inquiry and learning, including whole-class discussions, small-group work, Reader’s Theater, and Quests.

7. *Feedback and assessment:* Amplify ELA’s curriculum incorporates many opportunities for formative assessment—or assessment designed to give feedback on student performance that leads to improved learning outcomes. This type of low-stakes formative assessment moments provide opportunities for student growth and learning and are critical to academic success. To ensure these assessments can be used strategically to learning, Amplify’s software tools and rubrics enable teachers to measure - in real time- each student’s progress. In addition, since research shows frequent feedback motivates students, empowers them to be self-regulated learners, and is critical to their success at a given task, Amplify has built easy-to-use feedback tools, allowing teachers to provide targeted feedback efficiently.

[Detailed overview of Amplify ELA’s research base](#)