

HOW TO: Set administrator-led routines and expectations to expand school-wide use of Newsela

Back-to-school is the perfect time to introduce new routines with your teachers and students. By encouraging regular usage of Newsela PRO, you help provide teachers with a resource that has enough content to give them autonomy in their classroom, while also fulfilling and meeting your district’s curricular needs. Check out how these administrators set an implementation strategy that helped them expand school-wide use of Newsela.



PUBLIC
REDWOOD CITY, CALIFORNIA
GRADES 6-8



With a large population of English Language Learners (~60% ELL), McKinley Institute of Technology (MIT) needed to supplement core class time with additional literacy supports. After winning a grant for Chromebooks, MIT became the first school in the district to roll out 1:1 devices that are available at home and at school - internet provided. MIT quickly replaced their paper-based resources and Newsela became the go-to resource for their school-wide digital literacy initiatives. Here’s a few ways administrators effectively implemented Newsela into their teachers’ classrooms:

Administrator support

At the beginning of every year, the principal sits down with new teachers to a Newsela assignment together.

Parent involvement

The principal also creates a video to support parent

understanding of Newsela to increase its use at home. The success of this effort is aided by the fact that students can take their Chromebooks home with internet provided.

School-wide “Literacy Period”

At MIT, students have an additional daily “Literacy Period”. During this time, students are required to complete at least 6 Newsela quizzes a month with a passing score that is put in the grade book.

School leader incentives

Additionally, the principal puts Newsela on his “Christmas and Summer Wish Lists” to help promote and incentivize reading during breaks. Students that complete these challenges can earn rewards. It is also on the recommended non-fiction resource list for teachers and parents.



Wilkinson County Middle School

PUBLIC
WILKINSON COUNTY, GA
GRADES 6-8

Wilkinson County Middle School needed to increase student reading time. After the county received grants for 1:1 Chromebook devices, Newsela PRO was their solution for cross curricular literacy support. Newsela met their need to support close reading, improve vocabulary, and increase overall engaged reading time. The school's administrators implemented the following expectations to encourage teachers' use of Newsela:

Administrative accountability

School leaders require that each teacher assign one text a week on Newsela. Administrators follow up and make sure teachers are sharing Newsela content.

Validated PD

At the beginning of the year, Wilkinson teachers show administrators evidence of completing at least 1 Newsela professional learning on-demand resource.

Weekly routines

The school established a specific roll out for Newsela across all grade levels and content areas. Students know what to expect and how to use Newsela as they go from class to class.

Centennial School District, Pennsylvania

IMPLEMENTED NEWSELA PRO
AT THE SECONDARY LEVEL

SCHOOLS ACHIEVED 100%
ENGAGEMENT ON NEWSELA PRO

Centennial School District's Office of Teaching & Learning faced numerous challenges that hindered innovation, including budget constraints, understaffing, and a major consolidation of the district's schools. Across the district, informational technology training was scant, the curriculum needed refreshing, and teachers had no access to student data other than state assessment results. The district turned to Newsela PRO for informational text reading and help improving formative data on student learning. Here is how Joseph Rutz, the Assistant Director of Learning and Innovation supported his teachers in implementing Newsela PRO:

Admin support and advocacy

Joseph holds "Newsela PRO State of the Unions" every marking period to update principals on usage and adoption of the platform's most powerful functions, like advanced search and filtering for reading skill.

Professional Development

Centennial hosts full-day professional development trainings and webinars to educate teachers about Newsela. They determine the curriculum for these trainings based on teacher surveys.

Encourage repetition

The district encourages using at least one article per week as part of teachers' instruction. Joseph emphasizes that it brings current informational text to their students across subject areas and puts his mind at ease knowing that teachers will get their text from legitimate sources that directly align with core instruction.

Key Takeaways

As a result of administrators efforts, 100% of Wilkinson Middle School students read at an average of once a week on Newsela, while 80% of students are reading Newsela at least 5 times a week at MIT. Having top-down expectations set from administrators encourages faculty and students to continue to utilize Newsela PRO as a valuable content resource to support their curriculum. Here are a few best practices to encourage your teachers to continue to use Newsela PRO in their daily instruction:

- ① **Set expectations**
Communicate usage expectations for teachers when rolling out Newsela
- ② **Emphasize in staff meetings**
Build Newsela into meetings with your staff or PLC agenda to review teacher utilization and share best practices
- ③ **Spread the word**
Share Newsela with families to build community support and create stronger at-home connections