**HANDWRITING INSTRUCTION**

The State of Georgia has added handwriting standards to the CCGPS, K-5. This information is not stated in the original Common Core Standards documents because it is a local state addition.

Zaner-Bloser Handwriting is the adopted program for elementary students in grades K-3. Teachers model correct letter formation, correct handling of the writing tool and basic strokes. The teaching of manuscript and cursive writing is designed to provide each student with a communication skill necessary for basic literacy. All people must have the ability to communicate with ease and fluency in all their writing and reading efforts. Key points for instruction are:

 Legible handwriting enables students to write with confidence and pride, encouraging them to do better in all of their classes. Students will develop a solid foundation that provides strong lifelong communication skills.

 Handwriting is a perceptual-motor skill that is learned through guided practice followed by application in writing activities, making it more relevant to students.

 Implementing a handwriting curriculum assures consistency from grade level to

grade level as well as development of necessary skills to produce natural, legible handwriting.

**Teachers should proceed according to the sequence of the program to provide consistency.**

Strong development of foundational skills leads to consistent, legible handwriting. These skills include: utilizing appropriate pencil grasp, seated posture, and paper placement.

 The *4 Keys to Legibility* provide teachers and students with a system for learning and assessing handwriting. The *4 Keys to Legibility* are: SHAPE, SIZE, SPACING and SLANT.

 The Zaner-Bloser program can be taught in as little as 15 minutes per day and can be part of any daily teaching routine. It works with the language arts curriculum to fully support reading, writing, and the CCGPS.

**Goals/Objectives of Zaner-Bloser by Grade Level**

**Kindergarten:**

The student will:

1. develop good fine motor skills and posture to enhance success.

2. copy accurate letter formations (capital and lower case alphabet).

3. independently recall and reproduce manuscript alphabet (capital and lower case).

4. write with manuscript their first and last names.

**Grade 1:**

The student will:

1. improve legibility of manuscript letters (capital and lower case alphabet).

2. utilize the *4 Keys to Legibility* (shape, size, spacing and slant) appropriately in letters, words, sentences and numbers.

3. utilize proper line orientation within written work.

**Grade 2:**

The student will:

1. improve legibility of manuscript letters (capital and lower case alphabet).

2. utilize the *4 Keys to Legibility* (shape, size, spacing, slant) appropriately in letters, words, sentences and numbers.

3. utilize proper line orientation within written work.

4. master the *4 Keys to Legibility* to legible handwriting for manuscript writing.

**Grade 3:**

The student will:

1. review and reinforce skills previously taught.

2. transition from manuscript to cursive writing of capital and lower case letters.

3. infuse handwriting skills across the curriculum.

4. maintain the *4 Keys to Legibility.*

The expectation of the CCGPS is that cursive handwriting will be introduced and taught in the third grade and that students should be able to write legibly in cursive by the end of fourth grade. Cursive handwriting instruction should continue until handwriting becomes legible. In fourth grade, the CCGPS standard states that the student will write legibly in cursive leaving space between letters in a word and between words in a sentence (*from CCGPS*).

K-3 teachers and 4/5 teachers who need additional support to help their students meet the handwriting standards can go to:(www.zanerbloser.com), click on "Handwriting" at the top of the page. Then click on the "ZB Fonts On Line" icon. Teachers can create individualized work for their students on this site.

Much of the Zaner Bloser can be accessed online - free by using the Zaner Bloser link - http://www.zaner-bloser.com/media/zb/zaner-bloser/FontsOnline\_Sampler/FontsOnline\_Sampler/index.html.

Schools were told that if they did consume the handwriting student set received in Year 1 of the adoption, they would have to repurchase to replace with local funds.  Copying of the pages to make sets for students is not advised - copyright, expense, etc.  Zaner Bloser handwriting can be easily taught by teacher modeling on the board, and students practicing with her/him at the same time the correct way to make the letters and connections.

The goal is legibility and fluency in writing.  Expecting students to write in all of their writing as taught in the writing lesson is the key to changing the handwriting.  If students are allowed to write in any manner except when doing a handwriting lesson - the practice will not change effectively.  
  
The instruction is expected daily for about 15 minutes, K-3 and in grades 4-5, explicit handwriting instruction is expected for any students who are not writing fluently or legibly.