2.1 Description and Length of Core Curriculum

Kindergarten through Grade 2 (K-2) English Language Arts and Mathematics

Instruction in K-2 should have a strong hands-on, **multi-sensory** emphasis---remembering that young children are concrete rather than abstract thinkers at this stage in their understanding. Evidence-based instructional practices occur across multiple tiers using a scientifically **research-based core curriculum** aligned to the **Tennessee State Standards**.

In K-2, the **core curriculum** (or Tier I) addresses the needs of all students. All students will receive instruction with grade-level standards in small and whole group settings. Tier I is the first layer of **prevention** and it should be the focus of instruction, providing a strong foundation, and striving to meet the needs of all students. Classroom teachers should use **flexible small groups** and target specific skills in reading, writing, and mathematics. They should be provided with tools and training including:

- Core reading and mathematics programs, scientifically **research-based** and aligned to grade-level **Tennessee State Standards**;
- A nationally normed, skills-based **universal screener**;
- **Formative assessment** data at least 3 times per year to determine instructional needs; and
- Ongoing embedded support and **professional development**.

K-2 Minimum Recommended Instructional Times:

Tier I	Kindergarten	First	Second
ELA	150 minutes daily	150 minutes daily	150 minutes daily
Mathematics	60 minutes daily	60 minutes daily	75 minutes daily

It is strongly recommended that 90-minutes of the 150-minute ELA Tier I instruction be uninterrupted.

Tier I **English Language Arts** (ELA) instruction should include all of the Tennessee State Standards ELA strands (Reading [Literature, Informational Text, and Foundational Skills], Writing, Speaking and Listening and Language). As per the standards, reading instruction can also include Science and Social Studies texts.

Tier I Mathematics instruction should align to the domains (Counting and Cardinality, Number and Operations in Base Ten, Number and Operations in Fractions,