



Essex Community School District Curriculum Overview

At Essex CSD, our curriculum is designed to support academic growth, critical thinking, and student success at every grade level. We use research-based programs that align with Iowa Core Standards and provide a strong foundation from early learning through graduation.

Elementary (PreK–5)

Literacy: Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA)

Amplify CKLA combines foundational reading skills with rich content knowledge in history, science, literature, and the arts. Students acquire essential decoding and comprehension skills while building vocabulary and background knowledge that support academic success in later grades.

Learn more: <https://amplify.com/programs/amplify-core-knowledge-language-arts/>

Mathematics: Bridges in Mathematics

Bridges in Mathematics emphasizes concept development, problem-solving, and hands-on learning. Students explore mathematical ideas through visual models, real-world applications, and interactive instructional routines.

Learn more: <https://www.mathlearningcenter.org/>

Middle School (Grades 6–8)

English Language Arts: Houghton Mifflin Series – Students Acquiring English

This language-rich curriculum supports literacy development, academic vocabulary growth, and comprehension through varied texts and writing opportunities. It is designed to help middle school learners strengthen reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills.

Writing: Six-Trait Writing

Students learn to write effectively using the six core traits of quality writing:

- Ideas • Organization • Voice • Word Choice • Sentence Fluency • Conventions



ESSEX COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT



111 Forbes St, Essex, Iowa 51638 ~ Elem.712-379-3144 ~ HS.712-379-3114 ~ Fax 712-379-3200 ~ www.essex.k12.ia.us
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This framework promotes clear communication, revision skills, and writing confidence.

Mathematics: HMH Into Math

HMH Into Math provides standards-aligned instruction focused on conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, and real-world application.

- 6th Grade – HMH Into Math Grade 6
- 7th Grade – HMH Into Math Grade 7
- 8th Grade – HMH Into Math Grade 8

Learn more: <https://www.hmhco.com/programs/into-math>

High School (Grades 9–12)

English Language Arts

Prentice Hall Literature Series

Students study a wide range of literary and informational texts, improving reading comprehension, academic vocabulary, and analytical thinking. Practice books support skill development and preparation for college-level reading.

Six-Trait Writing

Instruction continues using the six-trait model to refine writing structure, clarity, and creativity.

Mathematics

Algebra I — HMH Into Algebra I

Geometry — HMH Into Geometry

Algebra II — HMH Into Algebra II

These courses provide a sequenced instructional pathway preparing students for advanced math, STEM careers, and college-ready skills.

Learn more: <https://www.hmhco.com/programs/into-aga>

Business Math — AGS Publishing Consumer Math

Focuses on practical financial skills including budgeting, taxes, payroll, insurance, and responsible consumer decision-making.



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Financial Literacy — Ramsey Solutions: Foundations in Personal Finance

Students learn real-world financial skills such as saving, spending, investing, credit management, and post-secondary planning.

Learn more: <https://www.ramseysolutions.com/education/foundations-personal-finance-hs>

Technical Math — HMH Introduction to Mathematics (Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II)

Provides a career-aligned math pathway that applies core mathematical concepts to technical, vocational, and real-world settings.

Learn more: <https://www.hmhco.com/programs/into-aga>