

State of Delaware

**Your Voice, Your Choice:
Statewide Teacher-Driven
Literacy Investment
Fall 2025**



This report provides an overview of Delaware's 2025 Your Voice, Your Choice initiative, which enabled teachers to request specific classroom materials and experiences to enhance literacy instruction. All materials were aligned to Delaware's Early Literacy Plan, which implements a consistent statewide approach grounded in the Science of Reading and high-quality instructional materials.

This report also demonstrates how the initiative ensured funding translated directly into classroom resources that delivered daily literacy instruction. The effort complements Delaware's Bridge to Practice investments by equipping educators with the materials needed to implement high-quality, evidence-based literacy instruction in their classrooms.

April 1, 2026

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OVERVIEW

Delaware's Your Voice, Your Choice was designed as a statewide initiative to directly invest in classroom literacy resources by empowering teachers to identify and request materials aligned to [Delaware's Early Literacy Plan](#). Through collaboration between the Delaware Department of Education and state leadership, educators were given access to a streamlined platform to request and receive materials aligned to literacy instruction across content areas.

The Delaware Department of Education selected an existing platform created by the non-profit DonorsChoose to efficiently administer requests, process purchases, and ensure transparency. This allowed the state to move quickly while maintaining clear visibility into how funds were used. This model was intentionally designed to put decision-making in the hands of teachers, who are closest to students and best positioned to identify immediate instructional needs. When aligned to statewide training and instructional expectations, this approach accelerates implementation and impact.

Projects were reviewed and vetted to ensure quality, relevance, and alignment with Delaware's Early Literacy Plan. Clear alignment requirements guided all submissions, reinforcing a consistent, evidence-based approach to literacy instruction grounded in the Science of Reading. The platform provided public transparency, allowing stakeholders to see how funds were used and which projects were supported. All materials purchased through this initiative are shipped directly to schools and remain the property of the school.

This report fulfills the requirements of Epilogue Section 22 of the Fiscal Year 2026 One-Time Supplemental (HB226) by detailing how the \$3 million for Teacher-Driven Projects was allocated, the programs and services implemented, the number of educators and students served, and early evidence of impact on classroom instruction and student learning outcomes.

Epilogue Section 22. Section 1 of this Act appropriates \$3,000,000 for Teacher-Driven Projects to the Department of 324 Education, District and Charter Operations, Other Items (95-02-02). The funding shall support classroom-based literacy practices by enabling teachers to purchase evidence-based literacy materials for the classroom. Funding priority shall be given to teachers in schools that have the lowest levels of literacy proficiency and/or that have been designated for Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) or Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI). The Department of Education shall submit a report by April 1, 2026, to the Co-Chairs of the Joint Finance Committee, the Controller General, and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget detailing the number of teachers who received funding, the items purchased, and the projects supported with these funds, the administrative fees expended, and any matching donations received from private entities.

Key features

- Public educators across Delaware submitted literacy-focused project requests.
- Each project was eligible to receive up to \$750 in funding.

- Funding delivered classroom materials and instructional tools tied to literacy development.
- State and partner recognition (logo and message) appeared on each funded project.

Teachers were able to select from curated project options or request specific materials—up to \$750 for literacy-focused resources. These materials were intentionally aligned to [Delaware's Early Literacy Plan](#), ensuring consistency with the state's broader strategy around the Science of Reading and high-quality instructional materials.

Once projects were submitted, funding was accelerated through a combination of public investment and individual donors. The funding initiative was structured so that large portions of most projects could be funded quickly, sometimes within days, allowing a high percentage of teachers across the state to participate.

This model was chosen by the Delaware Department of Education for efficiency and transparency. The DonorsChoose platform handled purchasing and shipping, sending materials directly to schools so teachers did not need to manage procurement. Every project included a clear list of requested items and costs, and donors could see exactly how funds were used.

The initiative also emphasized equity and access while prioritizing highest need schools. With part of the funding specified for state-identified target schools, remaining dollars were open to educators of all public schools. This allowed teachers from districts and charters across multiple communities to participate while directing concentrated resources to the schools with the greatest need.

Additionally, the initiative created a public-facing record of impact. Each funded project remained visible online, including donor messages and project details, reinforcing transparency and allowing stakeholders to see how investments translated into real classroom resources. Over time, the Your Voice, Your Choice project in Delaware funded 4,434 projects with \$3,326,288 million invested in Delaware classrooms.

Funding

- **\$3 million** was provided by the State of Delaware. An additional **\$326,288** was collected in additional private donations to fund Delaware classroom literacy projects
- **\$540,502** of the total funding was used for required project fees (shipping, fulfillment, screening, etc.) Administrative, fulfillment, and platform costs associated with project processing are being supported primarily through private philanthropic contributions, ensuring that state funds were directed to classroom materials and student learning.

Funding for the Your Voice, Your Choice initiative was not an open-ended funding model. All requests were required to align with literacy instruction and Delaware's Early Literacy Plan. To maximize classroom impact, administrative, fulfillment, and platform costs associated with project processing are being supported primarily through private philanthropic contributions. This ensures state funds are directed to classroom materials.

STATEWIDE RESULTS AND IMPACT

Overall impact

The statewide investment resulted in significant statewide investment in literacy instruction materials reaching thousands of classrooms and resulted in immediate, tangible changes to literacy instruction statewide:

- **4,434** projects funded
- **4,434** teachers received direct classroom resources aligned to the Science of Reading, strengthening daily instruction and expanding access to high-quality literacy materials for students across Delaware.
- **>200** schools/programs reached
- **45.5%** of schools serve student populations where at least half of students come from low-income households.

Delaware's 2025 Your Voice, Your Choice initiative resulted in a significant statewide investment in literacy instruction. This means that thousands of Delaware students now have access to materials that deliver foundational reading skills, vocabulary development, and comprehension as part of daily instruction. A substantial portion of funding was directed toward higher-need student populations.

Teacher participation was broad and impactful. All 4,434 teachers who received funding benefited directly from classroom resources. This expanded access to funding beyond experienced users and enabled many educators to secure resources that may not have otherwise been available. The initiative also strengthened long-term engagement by introducing more teachers to sustainable ways of accessing classroom materials and enhancing instruction.

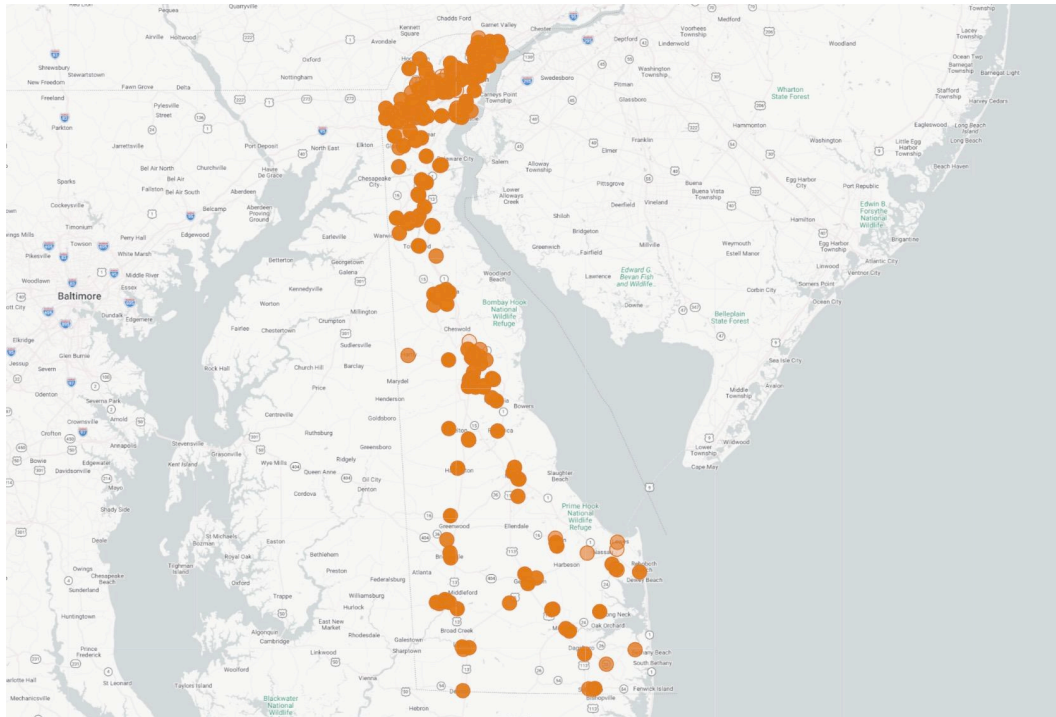
At the local level, more than 200 schools/programs participated in the Your Voice, Your Choice initiative, demonstrating strong statewide reach across districts and charters. Among participating schools/programs, 45.5% schools currently serve student populations where at least half of students are from low-income households. This distribution aligns with the state's equity priorities and ensures resources were both broadly distributed and strategically targeted to schools with greater economic need.

This funding approach demonstrates strong public investment and the effective leveraging of state resources. The State of Delaware contributed \$3,000,000, supplemented by \$326,288 in private donations. All funded projects focused on literacy and language, creating a deliberate strategy to strengthen reading and writing outcomes and maintain a consistent instructional focus aligned to Delaware's early literacy priorities.

Your Voice, Your Choice achieved broad geographic reach as well, with projects funded in 37 communities across Delaware. The highest concentrations of projects were in Wilmington (1,142 projects), Newark (568 projects), and Middletown (422 projects). This distribution demonstrates both statewide scale and targeted investment in key population centers, ensuring meaningful impact for students and educators across the state.

This investment demonstrates that when the state sets clear instructional expectations and puts

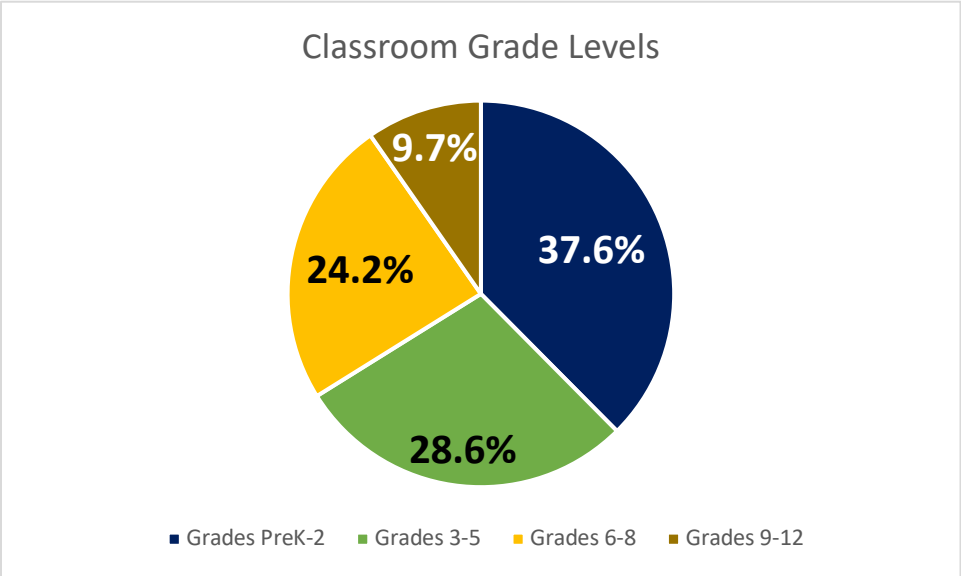
resources directly in the hands of educators, classrooms shift quickly and students benefit. Educators equipped with aligned materials and a shared vision for instruction strengthen day-to-day teaching and learning. We will continue to monitor implementation and outcomes to ensure this approach drives measurable improvements in literacy statewide.



DATA INSIGHTS

Grades served

Funding benefitted students across all grade levels, with the largest share concentrated in the early grades. This investment reflects a deliberate focus on early literacy, where foundational reading skills are developed, while also delivering continued literacy growth across grades. Projects serving PreK-2 accounted for 37.6% of funding, followed by grades 3-5 at 28.6%, grades 6-8 at 24.2%, and grades 9-12 at 9.7%. This distribution places the majority of investment in grades PreK-5, where foundational reading skills are developed, while also strengthening literacy instruction in middle and high school. This early-grade concentration aligns with Delaware’s goal of increasing Grade 3 reading proficiency from 38% to 53% by 2028.



Grades served	
Grades PreK-2	37.6%
Grades 3-5	28.6%
Grades 6-8	24.2%
Grades 9-12	9.7%

Teachers selected a wide range of materials to deliver literacy instruction, reflecting how they are implementing practices aligned to state training and Science of Reading expectations.

WHAT THIS LOOKS LIKE IN CLASSROOMS

These educator experiences demonstrate how targeted classroom resources translate directly into improved instruction and student engagement.

“Because of the support for our Leveling Up Readers project, my students have made **noticeable gains in both literacy skills and confidence**. The phonics and fluency materials have strengthened our small-group instruction and provided targeted, hands-on practice that meets students exactly where they are. I have seen **measurable growth in decoding accuracy**, reading fluency, and overall engagement during literacy block. Students who were once hesitant to read aloud are now **volunteering, setting goals, and proudly tracking their progress**. The structured, differentiated resources have **allowed me to close skill gaps** while fostering a classroom culture where every child feels capable of success. Beyond academic improvement, this project has built ownership, motivation, and a genuine love for reading...”

Samina Miles

Grades PreK-2 – Evan G. Shortlidge Academy
Red Clay Consolidated School District
Wilmington, DE



“This project has had a meaningful impact on my students’ confidence and independence as emerging readers and communicators. With consistent access to engaging, developmentally appropriate literacy materials, my students are **more willing to participate, take risks, and explore language in new ways**. Many are showing **increased attention, improved turn-taking, and stronger expressive and receptive communication skills** during both structured lessons and play-based learning. These gains extend beyond literacy time, **positively influencing behavior, social interactions, and overall classroom engagement**. The support of this project allows my students to experience literacy as enjoyable and empowering, laying a strong foundation for lifelong learning and communication.”

Andrea Torres-Glover

Grades PreK-2 – Warner Elementary School
Red Clay Consolidated School District
Wilmington, DE



“As we continue our phonics and literacy journey, students will use these materials to **strengthen blending and decoding skills, build sight word fluency**, and apply what they learn during shared reading and independent practice with our new books. Next, we’ll be working on writing simple sentences and retelling stories using letters, words, and models they create themselves. Because of you, **learning to read feels joyful, approachable, and empowering for my students**. Thank you for giving them the tools they need to grow, explore, and believe in themselves as readers.”

Donna Coursey

Grades PreK-2 – East Dover Elementary School
Capital School District
Dover, DE



“Thank you so much for your generous support of our classroom. Because of you, my **fifth graders are now using engaging novels, vocabulary journals, and daily grammar fix-it journals** as part of our reading and language arts block. We recently began a novel study where students read together, stop to discuss character choices, and record new vocabulary in their journals. One of my favorite moments was **watching students eagerly flip back through their books to find evidence to support their thinking**—something they are growing more confident doing each day. When the students first saw the materials, their excitement was immediate and genuine. They loved having brand-new books and journals that were truly their own. Several students **asked if they could start reading right away**, and others carefully wrote their names on the covers, proud to take ownership of their learning. The grammar fix-it journals quickly became a favorite warm-up activity, with students excited to ‘catch the mistakes’ and explain their thinking aloud.”

Rebecca Vasant

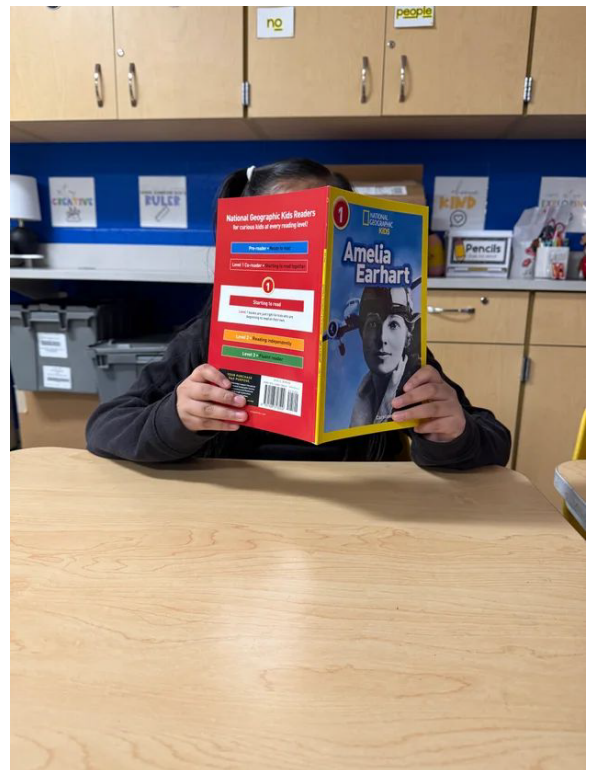
Grades 3-5 – Love Creek Elementary School
Cape Henlopen School District – Lewes, DE

“My students and I cannot thank you enough for your generous donations of new reading materials for our classroom. We have been so excited to open the packages and start using the materials.

We have had fun using the dry erase boards during small group time by writing words to help us read. We have also used them during our reading block to review concepts taught. The games have been so much fun to play in addition to our lesson during small group time. The **students get excited when they know it's a "game day" for groups**. Students are excited about the new books that have been added to our library. Dog Man has been a big hit! We have also enjoyed reading some of the books to **help better our understanding of concepts taught**, such as life cycles.”

Kelly Jones

Grades PreK-2 – Laurel Elementary School
Laurel School District – Laurel, DE



APPENDIX A: ITEMS PURCHASED

Educator Requests and Resource Priorities

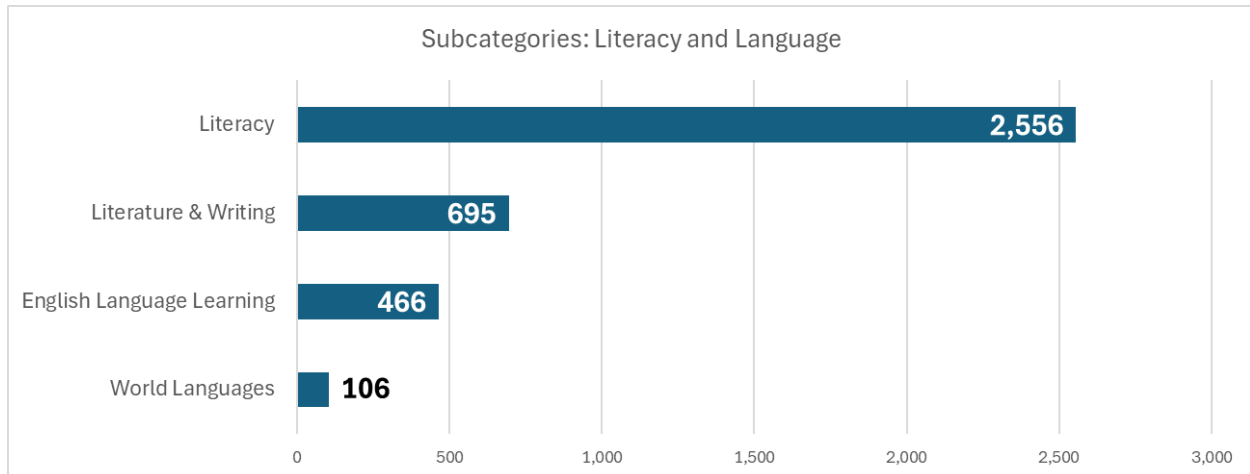
Educator requests reflect the real, day-to-day needs of literacy instruction. Materials include phonics tools, decodable texts, vocabulary resources, and engagement strategies that enable teachers to deliver effective, differentiated instruction.

The materials selected reflect how teachers are implementing literacy instruction aligned to state training and Science of Reading expectations in their classrooms. Their projects show that educators prioritized interactive tools alongside foundational resources to strengthen literacy instruction and student engagement. In some cases, materials that may appear supplemental, such as games, rewards, or flexible seating, are used as structured tools to strengthen student engagement, small-group instruction, and skill development within literacy blocks

Resources	
Classroom Supplies/Basics	34.5%
Books	21.4%
Computers and Tablets	4.6%
Educational Kits and Games	30.4%
Flexible Seating	14.8%
Food, Clothing & Hygiene	1.4%
Instructional Technology	4.5%
Lab Equipment	1.9%
Musical Instruments	0.7%
Reading Nooks, Desks & Storage	3.9%
Sports & Exercise Equipment	0.7%

Types of Literacy and Language Resources

Educator requests reflect a comprehensive approach to literacy development, spanning foundational reading skills, language development, and student engagement. Materials strengthened early literacy, vocabulary development, comprehension, and opportunities for students to interact with texts in meaningful ways. This range of requests underscores the importance of providing diverse tools that meet students at different stages of literacy development.



TOP ITEMS PURCHASED – BY GRADE

These materials reflect strong alignment to foundational literacy skills, including phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

Grades K-2

Top requested literacy kits and games

1. All-In-One Magnetic Phonics Kit
2. Splash! Reading Games - Complete Set
3. Word Mapping Write & Wipe Boards
4. Double-Sided Magnetic Letter Tiles
5. Trace & Write Alphabet Center
6. Find the Letter Activity Center
7. Lakeshore Short Vowels Skill-Building Book Set for Beginning Readers (Phonics and Science of Reading)
8. Giant Magnetic Draw & Write Page
9. 60 Magnetic CVC Photo Objects by Learning Letters. Real-Life Images That depict Words That Follow CVC Patterns. Color-Coded by Short Vowel Sound.
10. Lakeshore Letter Crayons Word Building Center - Phonics Games for Beginning Readers

Top requested books

1. I Have Ants in My Pants: A Picture Book About Learning Self-Control and Respecting Others Space
2. I Can Read : Biscuit 6 Book Set
3. 8 Book Set: Little SPOT of Emotion - Anger, Anxiety, Peaceful, Happiness, Sadness,

Confidence, Love

4. Charge into Reading Decodable Books (Stage 4): 5 Long Vowel VCE Decodable Readers to Help Kindergarten and First Grade Beginning Readers Learn to Read
5. Magic Tree House Chapter Books Set #1-8 - Early Reader Adventure Series for Kids Ages 6+
6. Pigeon - The Pigeon Has Feelings, Too! - Board Book
7. Charge into Reading Decodable Books (Stage 3): 6 Digraph Decodable Readers to Help Kindergarten and First Grade Beginning Readers Learn to Read
8. Charge into Reading Decodable Books (Stage 2): 5 Consonant Blends Decodable Readers to Help Kindergarten and First Grade Beginning Readers Learn to Read
9. The Magical Yet
10. Kaplan Early Learning National Geographic Level 2 Nonfiction Readers for Ages 5+ - Set of 8

Grades 3-5

Top requested literacy kits and games

1. All-In-One Magnetic Phonics Kit
2. 5-Minute Vocabulary Practice Cards - Gr. 3-5
3. Splash! Reading Games - Complete Set
4. Figurative Language Grab & Play Game - Gr. 3-4
5. Finding Evidence Comprehension Kits - Gr. 4-5 - Complete Set
6. Reading Comprehension Practice Cards - Gr. 4-5
7. Nonfiction Reading Comprehension Practice Cards - Gr. 4-5
8. Building Fluency Card Bank - Gr. 1-3
9. Word Mapping Write & Wipe Boards
10. Match & Sort Language Quickies - Gr. 2-3 - Complete Set

Top requested books

1. NEW SET! I Survived Series Book Set II (#11 - #20)
2. Goosebumps Classic (Series 1) - 10 Books Set Collection R.L. Stine
3. 4 Book Set: Graphic Novels #6 - Swim Team, Gamerville, Hoops, Change the Game
4. The Bad Guys Box Set: Books 1-5 - Paperback Book
5. Series Sampler: Dog Man Book Collection - 5 Book Set
6. Dork Diaries - Dork Diaries Boxed Set (Books 1-3)
7. Cat Kid Comic Club - The Cat Kid Comic Club Collection: From the Creator of Dog Man (Cat

Kid Comic Club #1-3 Boxed Set)

8. Baby-Sitters Little Sister - Baby-sitters Little Sister Graphix Collection #1-4
9. Dog Man: The Supa Buddies Mega Collection: From the Creator of Captain Underpants
10. Kaplan Early Learning Who Was/Is Biography Book Set for Kids - Set of 6

Grades 6-8

Top requested literacy kits and games

1. 5-Minute Vocabulary Practice Cards - Gr. 3-5
2. All-In-One Magnetic Phonics Kit
3. Touch & Read Blends & Digraphs Sentence Match
4. The Original TAPPLE, The Fast-Paced Family Board Game, Choose a Category & Race
11. Against the Timer to be the Last Player, Learning Word Game
5. Scholastic News Sticky Situation Cards: Grades 4-6 - Kids
6. Scholastic 100 Task Cards in a Box: Context Clues - Grades 4-6 - Kids
7. Finding Evidence Comprehension Kits - Gr. 4-5 - Complete Set

Top requested books

1. Percy Jackson- 5 Book Set Series Collection 5 Book Set
2. Goosebumps Classic (Series 1) - 10 Books Set Collection R.L. Stine
3. 4 Book Set: Graphic Novels #6 - Swim Team, Gamerville, Hoops, Change the Game
4. Hunger Games - Hunger Games 1-4 Box Set (PB)
5. 3 Book Set: The Crossover Series: The Crossover, Booked, Rebound (paperback)
6. 3 Book Set: Graphic Novels - Jerry Craft Author Study: New Kid, Class Act, School Trip (paperback)
7. Science World, Grades 6-10 (Print + Digital)
8. I Survived Series Book Set II (#11 - #20)
9. Frizzy (paperback graphic novel)
10. The Wild Robot Boxed Set

Grades 9-12

Top requested books

1. 4 High School Favorites - Book Set #1 (ages 14+): Becoming, Black Enough, Just Mercy, Blackout

2. When You Land (hardcover, YA ages 14+)
3. The New York Times Upfront, Grades 9-12 (Print + Digital)
4. Tokyo Ever After: A Novel (YA paperback)
5. The Light in Hidden Places (paperback)
6. The Poet X
7. The Beautiful Struggle (Adapted for Young Adults)
8. In the Time of the Butterflies, Paperback