

At-a-Glance: The First 18 Months of Setting up a New Balanced Literacy School

May	Professional development workshop on balanced literacy
June	Formation of a school-wide literacy team
June–August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers read materials about balanced literacy over the summer • Literacy team met and began planning for rolling out balanced literacy and forming a school-wide mission statement on literacy • Parent volunteers were recruited to assist with parent library • Back-to-school professional development for teachers planned • Information session for parents planned and implemented
August–September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadlines established by the principal for certain aspects of balanced literacy to begin • Entryway begins transformation for parent library • Teachers get more training on guided reading and assessments
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers had read-alouds posted outside their classroom doors • Word walls posted in classrooms • Classrooms arranged to support and facilitate small-group instruction • Common Core exemplar text library set placed in balanced literacy library
November–January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-assessment and reflection inventories on balanced literacy • Began filling out the 110 Minutes of Daily Balanced Literacy routines • Professional development on guiding reading and benchmark assessments

<p>February– March</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balanced literacy team furthered the school-wide goals to incorporate word walls into lessons along with the purpose for read-alouds • Teachers took classroom walk-throughs to share their word walls • Professional development in the CCSS instructional shifts
<p>April–June</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School-wide book club on professional learning communities • Literacy team devised grade-level meeting protocols and forms • Summer reading assigned for teachers • Professional development on close reading and other shifts
<p>June–August</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer reading initiative (SRI) • Professional development workshops
<p>September– November</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Word walls move into language walls • Writing workshop PK–8 is rolled out • Grade-level meetings focus on student learning and follow the PLC protocol