

**Best Practice Site**  
**Teaching Students with Disabilities to Read and Write**

<b>Region</b>	Western
<b>Schools</b>	Macon County
<b>Coordinator and Central Office</b>	Paula Ledford, EC Director Macon County Schools Central Office P.O. Box 1029 Franklin, NC 28734 Phone: 828.524.3314 Fax: 828.524.5938 Email: <a href="mailto:paula.ledford@mcsk-12.org">paula.ledford@mcsk-12.org</a>
<b>Exceptional Children/Literacy Programs, Site Coordinator</b>	
<b>Instructional Location(s)</b>	Macon Middle School 1345 Wells Grove Road Franklin, NC 28734 Phone: 828.524.3766  Union Learning Center 158 Union School Road Franklin, NC 28734 Phone: 828.369.1277  South Macon Elementary 855 Addington Bridge Road Franklin, NC 28734 Phone: 828.369.0796  Iotla Elementary 1166 Iotla Church Road Franklin, NC 28734

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Phone: 828.524.2552

Highlands School  
545 Pierson Drive  
Highland, NC 28741  
Phone: 828.526.4586

Cartoogechaye Elementary  
3295 Old Murphy Road  
Franklin, NC 28734  
Phone: 828.524.2845

Cowee Elementary School  
51 Cowee School Drive  
Franklin, NC 28734  
Phone: 828.524.2938

East Franklin Elementary School  
100 Watauga Street  
Franklin, NC 28734  
Phone: 828.524.3214

**Purpose and Goals**

Macon County Schools will improve the reading and writing skills of exceptional students by providing effective research-based reading instruction, training and demonstration of effective research-based instruction for teachers and other instructional staff. We will work toward consistent and comprehensive reading and writing programs to be used countywide in teaching students with disabilities to read and write. Specifically, the goal shall be to significantly improve the reading and writing performance of identified exceptional students performing at Level 1 or 2 on the Reading End of Grade Performance Tests and State Writing Tests in Macon County Schools, as well as children that are identified as at risk in grades kindergarten through second.

**Description Of**

Students to be included in the project will be students in the primary

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#### Students

grades (k-2) that are identified as at risk and who are being considered for referral into the EC program and that upon assessment are found to have significant deficits in one of four areas: Phonological awareness skills, decoding strategies, fluency rate and reading comprehension. Students in grades 3-8 will be included on the basis of low performance on EOG tests and who fit into identification categories, of LD, EMD, OHI, and BED. The developmental preschool class consists of students already identified as developmentally delayed.

#### Description of Instructional Model

After extensive research and training, our panel has chosen a combination of the Saxon Phonics and Spelling Program (K-3) and Saxon Intervention Program (4-12) with our class size groups and the Wilson Reading System on a more intense basis with small group (1-3) instruction. Both of these programs incorporate the five critical areas identified in an effective reading program. They encompass all grade levels and the ease of implementation is a critical component. Saxon is a flexible program that can be used in small groups as well as whole classrooms. The Saxon program is an explicit systematic approach that has proven effective in Macon County. We also will be using the Wilson Reading System as an intense remediation for students in the lower five percentile of reading competency. It will provide the intensive training needed by these very low performing students. We are currently investigating, along with NCSIP II guidance, a research based writing program, which will be adopted for use in each program site.

#### Instructional Methods

#### Instructional Materials

#### Designated Teachers

**MMS:** Diane Cotton, Debbie Hernandez, Jeff Pope  
**Iotla:** Tracy McCoy  
**Highlands:** Victoria Collins, Vicki Barnard

North Carolina State Improvement Project (NC SIP II)  
The UNC Center for School Leadership Development  
140 Friday Center Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27516  
919.843.5037



<http://www.ncsip.org>

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**South Macon:** Christine Kinsland

**Cartoogechaye:** Beth Jones, Maria Tallent

**Cowee:** Erin Killian

**Union Learning Center:** Katharine Brown

**East Franklin:** Dale Honey