

**Squires Elementary School  
Lexington, Kentucky**

**Policy Number: 5.4  
Instructional Practices Policy**

We believe that students learn best when they:

- Are actively involved in their own learning.
- Share ownership in applying what is being taught.
- Communicate with peers about what they are learning.
- Are able to make authentic connections integrating content.

Each day, each student shall:

1. Read books or materials on their own or with a partner.
2. Write in response to a prompt, in a journal, or free writing.
3. Participate in hands-on math.

Each week, each student shall:

1. Participate in a hands-on science activity.
2. Participate in an active music or visual arts activity.
3. Participate in writing an open-ended question (Open Response Item) – minimum 2-3 times per week in any core content area.
4. Participate in a peer writing or reading conference.
5. Intermediate students participate in hands-on math.

Each month, each student shall:

1. Speak in front of a group.
2. Participate in a one-on-one reading or writing conference with a teacher.
3. Produce a proficient piece of writing.

Students will learn the purposes for writing and produce pieces that reflect:

1. Writing to learn
2. Writing to demonstrate learning and
3. Writing for an authentic purpose (Writing Policy)

Students will be taught to evaluate the quality of content area work through:

1. The use of scoring guides to evaluate open response answers
2. The use of the Kentucky Writing Assessment Holistic Scoring guide to evaluate portfolio writing, and
3. The use of Kentucky released items, marker papers, benchmarks, etc.
4. Critical discussions

Revised: 10/05