

The Write Way Forward: Fostering Equity and Academic Success through a Consistent Handwriting Curriculum



Andrew Haupt, MOTS¹; Amy Knutson, MOTS¹; Lauren Olsen, MOTS¹
 Faculty Advisor: Tracy Jirikowic, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA¹; Community Mentor: Theresa Berkeridge, MOT, OTR/L²
¹University of Washington Division of Occupational Therapy, ²Seattle Public Schools

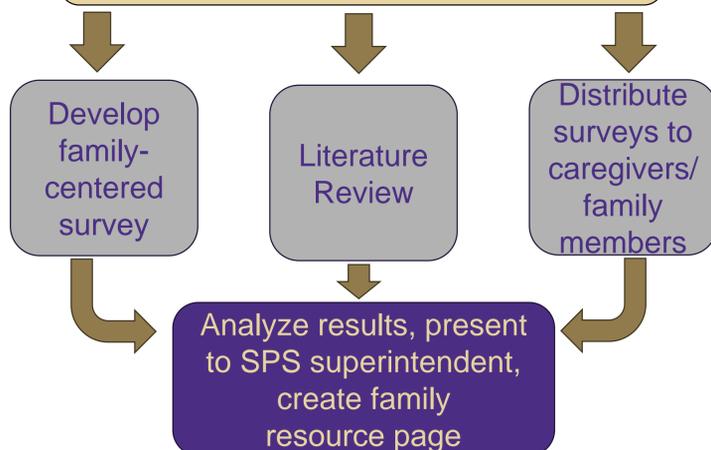
BACKGROUND

- Handwriting supports and facilitates literacy, visual-motor development, communication, and social participation for children.^{1,2,4}
- The Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) framework has been implemented in many school districts. It emphasizes Universal Design for Learning, which is meant to create equitable access to academic support and resources for all students.³

PURPOSE

- To better understand the perceptions of families in Seattle Public Schools (SPS) regarding children's handwriting needs.
- To explore a need for a consistent handwriting curriculum in SPS by getting teacher, OT, and family perspectives on the importance of handwriting for students.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

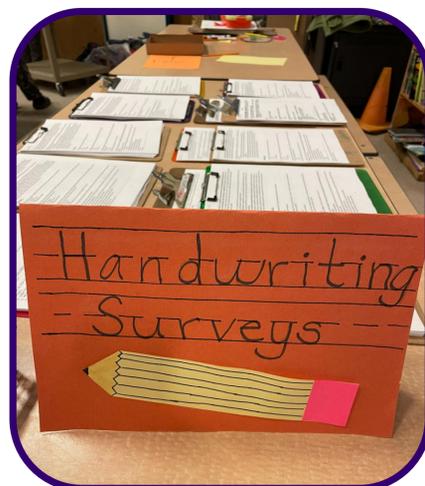


PROCESS

- We created a survey to get family and caregiver perspectives on the importance of handwriting for their children.
- We also asked about barriers to getting support for their child's handwriting and if families felt their child's handwriting was well-supported in school.
- We asked if they felt that having a handwriting curriculum would help their child's learning.

SURVEY DEVELOPMENT

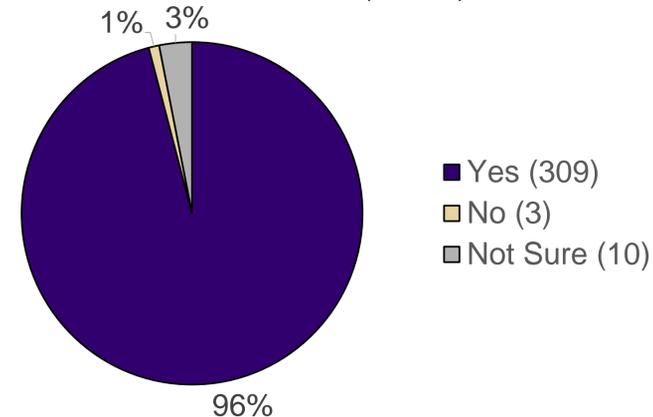
- We received feedback from a teacher and a group of OTs in SPS, as well as an OT outside of the district with research experience.
- Surveys were translated into 21 different languages with the help of interpreters and distributed to family members in seven schools, representing four different regions of SPS.
- We collaborated with other OTs in SPS and used information from conversations with families, as well as data from survey results, to help inform our recommendations.



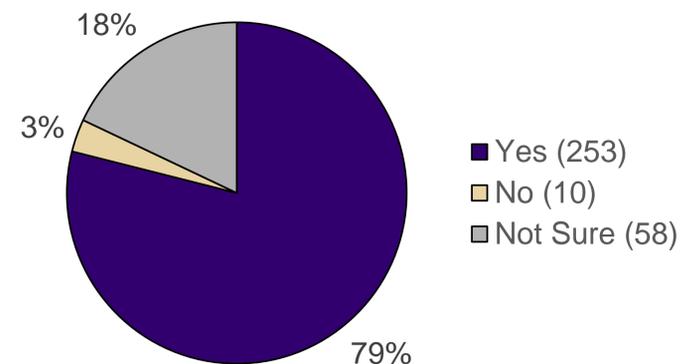
SURVEY RESULTS

- Surveyed 324 families from elementary schools in four different regions across SPS.
- Attended school events, including Social-Emotional Learning night, Pi Night, and Pizza Night.
- Had conversations with families/caregivers.
- Survey results showed that family members and caregivers believe that having a standardized handwriting curriculum would help their child's learning.

Is Handwriting an Important Skill for your Child to Learn? (n=322)



Do You Feel That Having a Handwriting Program that All Teachers Use Would Help Your Child's Learning? (n=321)



IMPLEMENTATION

- With our community mentor, we prepared a presentation highlighting the evidence base of handwriting instruction and how it supports literacy, inclusion and equity.
- We presented our findings to SPS leadership; content included:
 - Benefits of learning handwriting and how it promotes literacy in K-2 students.
 - Research evidence to support handwriting instruction.
 - Opinions of family members and caregivers.
 - Benefits of regularly practicing handwriting in the digital age.
 - Available handwriting curriculum options.

CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

- Families want their children to be better supported with their handwriting goals.
- Families, teachers, and OTs all agree that having a standardized curriculum that facilitates consistent practice with customized feedback can lead to better handwriting outcomes.
- A family resource page on supporting their child's handwriting at home was created and distributed via the SPS website.

REFERENCES

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