

**Grade 2:** Module 1: Unit 2

# Overview for Families

### Notes to Teacher:

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Making connections between home and school is vitally important in supporting students' learning. The following suggestions and materials represent some of the ways you can support these connections during this unit.

#### Suggestions:

- Copy the attached family letter and send it home with students after teaching Lesson 1 of this unit (this letter can be used as is, or as a model). Consider having the letter translated for families whose first language is not English.
- Send home copies of the “What Is School?” song for students to sing to their families.
- Encourage students to share any at-home learning with the class. They can do this orally or by sharing writing, pictures, or artifacts. Example: Consider providing time for students to sing a new song about school that they have created with their learning.
- Provide materials for students to make “school materials” (e.g., journals, rulers, etc.) to play school at home.
- Encourage parents to help their students search in books or on the Internet for pictures of different types of schools. Invite students to bring in the pictures to share with the class.
- Depending on the needs of your students and the expectations of your school community, you may wish to assign additional homework. Consider more open-ended activities that help students read, think, talk, write, and ask questions about the topic versus those that simply test students on their content knowledge (see suggested activities in the family letter).
- If using EL Education’s K–2 Reading Foundations Skills block, consider sending home a copy of the student decodable reader used each week.

#### Dear Family,

During Unit 2 of this module, your student will continue to study aspects of school. By the end of the module, students will be able to participate in a discussion around the module guiding question: “What is school, and why are schools important?” I am writing today to explain what your student will be learning, describe the activities that will support this learning, and suggest how to support this learning at home. I hope that you will plan to join us at the end of our deep study to celebrate all of your student’s learning!

### What will your student be learning?

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Students will study schools around the world, the problems their communities face in getting students to school, and how those communities overcome their problems because school is so important. This learning will be focused on these ideas:

- Things like weather and location can make it difficult for children to go to school.
- Communities think of solutions to make sure students have a place to go to school.

During the Reading Foundations Skills block, students continue reviewing foundational reading skills from first grade (e.g., common vowel teams, open and closed syllables, high-frequency

words). Understanding and practicing high-frequency words is important to help students develop automaticity when reading words that “don’t play fair.” The learning for Unit 2 will focus on:

- Practicing high-frequency words helps me read books fluently and write words quickly
- Multisyllabic words can be separated into syllables to help me read and write

## How will your student be learning?

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Throughout the unit, your student will read, think, listen, talk, write, and ask questions about the topic of challenges of going to school. Students will participate in these activities, among others, to build their literacy skills:

- Participating in a close read-aloud of *Off to Class: Incredible and Unusual Schools around the World*
- Taking notes using textual evidence during the close read-alouds
- Singing songs about school
- Engaging in conversations with classmates
- Writing informative paragraphs using information from class research
- Writing and drawing about challenges some communities in sending their students to school and how they overcome this challenge
- Engaging in a Readers Theater

## What can you do to support your student's learning at home?

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Here are a few activities that you can do at home with your student to support his or her learning:

- Ask your child to talk with you about the following question: How have some communities solved the problems they had with getting students to school?
- Use the Internet to research schools around the world.
- Walk or drive by the schools around your community.
- Write the high-frequency words on cards and practice reading them fluently (*our, down, been, before, boy, tree, once, open*).
- Create a board or poster with common vowel teams -ee and -ea at the top. Say a word spelled with one of the common vowel teams (e.g., *seen, teen, clean, team*). Invite your student to write the word in the appropriate column, spelling it correctly.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to discuss your student's learning.

Sincerely,

—TEACHER NAME HERE—