



December 6, 2024

The Honorable Mark Born,  
Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Finance  
Wisconsin State Legislature  
Room 308 East, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53707  
Rep.Born@legis.wisconsin.gov

The Honorable Howard Marklein,  
Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Finance  
Wisconsin State Legislature  
Room 316 East, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53707  
Sen.Marklein@legis.wisconsin.gov

**Subject: Early Literacy Curricula Recommendations as Required Under 2023 Act 20**

Dear Representative Born and Senator Marklein:

The Department of Public Instruction has adopted the following list of early literacy curricula, as required under Wis. Stat. S. 118.015(1m)(b):

1. Bookworms Reading and Writing K-3 (Open Up Resources, 2022)
2. Core Knowledge Language Arts K-3 (CKLA, Amplify Education, 2022)
3. EL Education K-3 Language Arts (Open Up Resources, 2017)
4. HMH Into Reading with Amira (HMH, 2023)
5. Wit and Wisdom with Geodes (Great Minds, 2023) and Foundations® (Wilson Language Training®, 2020)
6. Wit and Wisdom with Geodes (Great Minds, 2023) and Really Great Reading (Countdown 2017, Blast Foundations 2014, HD Word 2015)

This list consists of two curricula newly recommended by the Early Literacy Curricula Council (the Council), along with four curricula previously recommended by the Council for use in the 2024 – 2025 school year.

The Council engaged in a thoughtful, thorough, and transparent review process to establish this list of curricula. The review process began with each Council member independently reviewing each set of materials using an agreed upon rubric. Scores were tabulated, the Council discussed, and the Council voted on whether to include each set of materials on the list.

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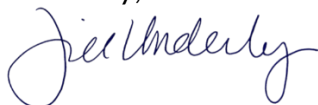
The Council engaged all members in its review of each set of materials that were submitted by publishers on time. Council members had at least three months to review the three sets of materials. Satisfied with the Council's review process, the DPI did not engage in an independent review process and has adopted the curriculum list as recommended by the Council. The Council is to be commended for its commitment, efforts, and professionalism.

The DPI adopts the Council's list of early literacy instruction materials for the 2025 – 2026 school year. The DPI will post the list of materials at [www.dpi.wi.gov/wi-reads](http://www.dpi.wi.gov/wi-reads) and share information about the list with DPI constituents.

I would also like to call your attention to two ongoing issues with Act 20. First, following the Wisconsin Supreme Court's decision in *Evers v. Marklein*, the DPI will not submit this curricula list to the Joint Committee on Finance for review or approval. 2024 WI 31, ¶ 23, 412 Wis. 2d 525, 545 (“Once the legislature passes a bill that is signed by the governor and becomes law, the legislature plays no part in enforcing our statutes.”) (internal citations omitted); See also, Wis. Const. Art. X, s. 1. (“The supervision of public instruction shall be vested in a state superintendent ...”).

Second, it has now been more than 18 months since Act 20 – bipartisan legislation – was signed into law, and school districts are still without the funding to support implementation due to inaction by your Joint Committee on Finance. Regardless, schools continue to work tirelessly to implement the requirements in Act 20, including purchasing new curriculum with their own limited funds. To date, your Joint Committee on Finance has unconstitutionally refused to release nearly \$50 million that was passed by the legislature and signed into law, a large portion of which is intended to support the purchase of curriculum materials that are on the Council's list. I have repeatedly called for you to release this funding to help every child learn to read. I once again implore you, as committee chairs, to put aside your partisan agenda and release this critical funding and support our kids and our schools.

Sincerely,



Jill K. Underly, PhD  
State Superintendent  
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

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