Bay-Arenac ISD
Striving for Excellence

Educational Service Center
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Dear Parents and Legal Guardians,

We are writing to share important information regarding the reading curricula used in our center-based programs, in compliance with Section 22b(3) of the Michigan State School Aid Act.

Michigan law requires public school districts to notify families when K–5 reading instruction uses a curriculum not included on the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Tier 1 Evidence-Based Reading Curricula List. MDE guidance clarifies that districts are not required to select a curriculum from this list and that the list is one method for demonstrating evidence-based alignment.

Our center-based programs, which serve students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), currently include:

- **Unique Learning System (ULS):** Used in our programs serving students with significant cognitive disabilities, ULS provides adapted literacy instruction aligned with Michigan's Essential Elements and students' individual academic expectations.
- **Wonders:** Used in our elementary Emotional Impairment (EI) program. It is a comprehensive, core reading program designed around the Science of Reading.
- **Emergent Literacy:** The Emergent Literacy program helps children with significant communication and learning challenges develop foundational reading and writing skills through daily, interactive activities. By assuming every child can learn, this research-backed framework uses specialized tools and core vocabulary boards to give your child an independent voice and a pathway to literacy.

Please be assured that Bay-Arenac ISD remains committed to ensuring that your child receives a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), consistent with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Your child's IEP team will continue to determine the programs and services necessary to meet your child's unique needs, and staff will continue to deliver the specially designed instruction and services as outlined in the IEP.

Bay-Arenac ISD will review the MDE-approved reading curricula and select an evidence-based curriculum aligned with state standards and the instructional needs of students in the elementary EI Program. The selected curriculum will be implemented beginning in the 2027–28 school year. The elementary programs will continue to use ULS and Emergent Literacy as a curricular resource. Bay-Arenac ISD will ensure reading instruction and materials remain evidence-based and aligned with state expectations and student needs.

Our commitment to your child's growth, progress, and success remains unwavering. We are proud of the progress our students are making and remain committed to providing high-quality curricula, specially designed instruction, and supports that meet every learner's needs.

If you have questions regarding Section 22b(3) or the curriculum being used to support your child, please contact the Bay-Arenac ISD Special Education office.

Sincerely,

Becky Smith
Director of Special Education
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