

35J LITERACY GRANT

In the Spring of 2024, the Michigan Department of Education awarded a grant to Bridgman Public Schools totalling \$125,005 to “improve literacy instructional practices by investing in high quality, research-based best practices, and professional learning.

"35j legislation states that ALL (100%) Pre-K to 5 teachers (this includes classroom teachers, resource teachers, electives teachers, etc.), building administrators, and instructional coaches must complete the selected professional learning."

To that end, thirty-three Pro5-5 staff are engaging this year (2024-25) in literacy professional development aligned to the science of reading, including:

- UFLI Foundation
- Heggerty Writing
- IXL
- Orton Gillinham
- ELA curriculum to be determined (2024-25)
- Phonics, phonemic awareness fluency and high frequency words.

This is a daunting prospect for our district, but also an unprecedented opportunity to come together, learn together, grow together, and empower our students to be successful readers together.

Curriculum & Assessment

Furthermore, the grant states that the “district is required to...post on the district’s website the Pro5 to 5 literacy curriculum and benchmark assessment the district is using.”

Pro5 to 5 Literacy Curriculum

Bridgman Elementary combines multiple instructional resources to support the Pro5-5 core curriculum of ensuring students develop content knowledge and skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language. The resources used include Wonders, Heggerty, Orton Gillingham, UFLI, Reading Assistant, Phonics for Reading, Seven Minute Solutions, Vocabulary A-Z, IXL, Lexia, Words their Way, Learning Without Tears, Amplify and Bridge the Gap.

We plan to use 35j funds to purchase a new Elementary ELA Tier 1 curriculum better aligned to the science of reading, and are currently in the process of selection. Final selection is expected during the 2024-25 school year.

Benchmark Assessment

AimsWeb Plus