

January 2026

Dear Rochester Community Schools Families,

We remain focused on ensuring continued literacy growth for all students in our classrooms. We want to share important updates regarding recent Michigan Department of Education (MDE) legislation and how it will shape the resources used to guide literacy instruction in our district.

In October 2024, Governor Whitmer signed Public Act 146, commonly referred to as the *K–12 Literacy and Dyslexia Laws*. This legislation is designed to improve literacy rates across Michigan through the Science of Reading and includes requirements for professional learning, assessments, interventions, and resource selection, with each to be fully implemented by Fall 2027.

RCS has been supporting our staff with new learning and resources in anticipation of these shifts. The Michigan Department of Education has also been required to publish a list of approved, evidence-based, class-wide reading curricula. On December 19, 2025, MDE released its initial list with a new timeline for rolling submissions and approvals. The publisher of our previously adopted K-5 reading *Units of Study* did not seek MDE approval at this time, and accordingly these materials are not included on the current MDE-approved list. RCS began this comprehensive review process in 2024, well before the December MDE approval list was released, and therefore our review includes some materials that are not yet identified on the MDE list. Our review currently includes: *American Reading Company, CKLA, EL Education, Magnetic Literacy, Orton Gillingham, Wit & Wisdom, and UFLI.*

We are confident that the professional learning we have engaged in alongside evidence-based instructional resources will continue to yield high-quality literacy instruction for all students. Please note the timeline currently in place regarding our resource review and selection.

Literacy Resource Revision Timeline:

- **Spring/Fall 2024** – Began foundational skills professional learning and resource review
- **Winter 2025** – Re-establish RCS literacy vision and evaluation criteria including MDE guidance
- **Fall 2025** – Research available resources
- **Winter/Spring 2026** – Review new materials and recommend new curricula to school board
- **Fall 2026** – District implementation of new curricula
- **Winter/Spring 2027** – Review and recommend PA 146/MDE approved screening tool
- **Fall 2027** – District implementation of approved screening tools.

We are deeply grateful for your partnership as we move forward with this work. Quality literacy instruction is the foundation of all learning—it opens doors to discovery, critical thinking, and meaningful participation in our world. Together, as educators and families, we are committed to ensuring every Rochester Community Schools student develops the reading skills they need to become capable, contributing members of society. Your support of your child's literacy development at home, combined with our evidence-based instruction at school, is what helps students thrive.

Sincerely,



Kimberly Hempton
Assistant Superintendent of Elementary and Early Education