Coloma Community Schools

David Ehlers, Superintendent of Schools
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August 31st, 2026

Dear Coloma Families,

I am writing to share information regarding the reading curriculum used in our elementary schools and a recent development related to Michigan's approved curriculum materials.

Coloma Community Schools currently uses *Wonders* from McGraw-Hill Education and *UFLI Foundations* for our English Language Arts curriculum in grades K–2. *Wonders* is a comprehensive literacy program that provides instruction in areas including phonics, phonemic awareness, vocabulary, fluency, reading comprehension, and writing. *UFLI Foundations* is a structured, evidence-based phonics and foundational literacy program that explicitly and systematically teaches students the skills they need to become confident, skilled readers. In grades 3-5, the district uses *Wonders* and supplements instruction with *UFLI Foundations*.

The Michigan Legislature has recently passed a law for the Michigan Department of Education to provide an approved list of approved K-5 literacy programs. *Wonders* did not make the most recent revision of the list. Coloma Community Schools stands behind our adoption of *Wonders* to be a part of our K-5 English Language Arts curriculum materials. *UFLI Foundations* did make the approved list.

Wonders is currently approved by many states with similar laws, and has received an all "Green" rating from EdReports, an independent non-profit organization that evaluates K-12 curricular resources. Please feel free to review the comprehensive evaluation of *Wonders* at EdReports. The district relied heavily upon the EdReports comprehensive evaluation during our review and adoption of *Wonders*.

It is important to understand that the absence of *Wonders* from Michigan's approved list does not, by itself, mean that the curriculum has been determined to be ineffective or inappropriate for students. States establish their own review processes, criteria, and approved curriculum lists, and those decisions can differ from state to state. While we recognize and acknowledge the Michigan Department of Education's push for literacy standards and expectations, we take our responsibility seriously to ensure that every Comet

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receives high-quality, evidence-based instruction that develops the skills necessary to become strong and successful readers.

Because *Wonders* is not currently on Michigan's approved list, the district will continue to carefully review our K–5 literacy program, including the alignment of our curriculum and instructional practices with Michigan's expectations and current research regarding effective reading instruction. We will also evaluate any implications associated with the state's approved curriculum requirements and guidance.

In the meantime, our teachers will continue their important work of providing strong literacy instruction and supporting each student as they develop their reading and writing skills.

Open communication with our families is essential. As state updates unfold and we work through next steps for our literacy curriculum, we promise to keep you updated every step of the way.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support of Coloma Community Schools.

Dave Ehlers
Superintendent

Inspire to Achieve – Empower for Success

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