



Jackson Public Schools

Administrative Office

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Date: September 30, 2026
To: Parents and Legal Guardians of K–5 Students
From: Jackson Public Schools
Subject: Section 164k(e) Literacy Curriculum Disclosure

Dear Parents and Legal Guardians,

In accordance with Section 164k(e) of the Michigan State School Aid Act, Jackson Public Schools is issuing this notice regarding its K–5 literacy curriculum.

The district's current K–5 literacy curriculum, Open Court, is not included on the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Recommended Literacy Materials List. Under Section 164k(e), curricula not included on this list are not designated by MDE as “evidence-based or aligned to state standards” through the recommended list process, “which could negatively impact student academic outcomes.”

However, Michigan law and MDE guidance ([MDE Memo](#)) clarify that districts are **not required** to select a curriculum exclusively from the MDE list. The list is not exhaustive and represents just one method for demonstrating alignment.

Jackson Public Schools has conducted a local review process and maintains documentation indicating that its current reading instruction and curriculum materials are evidence-based, with a focus on pupils' mastery of the foundational reading skills of phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, and the development of other reading skills, including, but not limited to, development of oral language, vocabulary, and reading comprehension—consistent with MCL 380.1280f and MCL 388.1764k.

To ensure continuous growth, Jackson Public Schools will engage in an ongoing selection, evaluation, and alignment process beginning in October 2026, with an anticipated completion in February 2027. Through this review, the district will actively adjust and strengthen our current curriculum to maximize alignment with state standards and science of reading principles, while simultaneously evaluating potential new K–5 core literacy curriculum materials to adopt if a new program better serves our students' needs.

We will continue to closely monitor our students' literacy data and progress-monitoring assessments to ensure all children receive high-quality reading intervention during this transition period. Any future curriculum updates or adoption decisions will be communicated to families.

If you have any questions regarding our current literacy instruction or the planned timeline for upcoming curriculum adoptions, please do not hesitate to contact our administrative office at **517-841-2157** or via email at **Julie.Baker@jpsk12.org**.

Sincerely,

Julie A. Baker
Deputy Superintendent
Elementary Curriculum, State and Federal Programs
Jackson Public Schools