

Date: February 15, 2024

To: The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, State Superintendent Dr. Jill Underly
WI Joint Committee on Finance, Co-Chairs Senator Marklein and Representative Born
WI Senate Majority Leader, Senator David LeMahieu
WI Assembly Speaker, Representative Robin Vos

CC: WI Assembly Committee on Education, Chairperson Representative Joel Kitchens
WI Senate Committee on Education, Chairperson Senator John Jagler
WI Senate Committee on Education, Senator Duey Strobel

From: Amy McGovern, Chairperson of the Wisconsin Early Literacy Curriculum Council, on behalf of the Full Council: Vice Chairperson Holly Prast, Secretary Katie Kasubaski, Megan Dixon, Nancy Dressel, Kari Flitz, Itzel Galindo, William Hughes, and Joe Garza

The council wishes to thank the WI DPI and the WI Legislators for their patience as we reviewed fourteen comprehensive curricular resources submitted to the SharePoint portal.

The following four programs meet the high-quality standards the Early Literacy Council set forth according to the comprehensive [Wisconsin Curriculum Rubric](#), which includes robust knowledge-building and strong foundational skills instruction.

- 1. CKLA by Amplify**
- 2. EL by Open Up Resources**
- 3. Wit and Wisdom with Geodes and Really Great Reading**
- 4. Bookworms by Open Up Resources**

1. [The Wisconsin Curriculum Rubric](#) combines elements of the Knowledge Matters Rubric and The Reading League Rubric, with revisions made by the council based on our collective expertise. It is unique, which means, by definition, the recommendations of this council are unique and should not be compared to other states with different rubrics. QUANTITY does not mean QUALITY.
2. The Wisconsin rubric is detailed and includes all 9 components of literacy per ACT 20, plus spelling, with nuanced subcomponents that help identify quality. No program that uses three cueing (MSV) for word-solving prompts or traditional leveled readers has been included on our final list because these practices have been proven to slow the progress of students who may be hard-wired to struggle with learning how to read (Kilpatrick, 2015; Seidenberg, 2017)
3. The **overall category** was used to determine the average total score.
4. The council agreed that programs with average total scores of 3 (sufficient) or above met the high mark criterion of a high-quality, rigorous program and are therefore more likely to promote academic achievement in the area of literacy
5. The council discussed the programs that scored between 2.8 and 2.99 (see above) and determined that one of those four programs (Bookworms) should be added to our 2024 list. The council discussed the challenges of the large basal series, the pros and cons, and the need for options on our list. All council

members present shared their viewpoints. As a whole, the council voted not to include the three comprehensive basals that scored above 2.8 and below 3.0 with Amy McGovern and Holly Prast dissenting.

- *Wonders by McGraw Hill 2.84*
- *Benchmark by Benchmark 2.83*
- *Into Reading by Houghton Mifflin 2.83*

Of the fourteen programs fully reviewed, three curricula reached our high mark threshold of 3.00+ on our 4.00-point scale. An overall score of 3 represents a sufficient program that is more likely to produce successful student outcomes when combined with appropriate professional development, implementation support, and responsive teaching grounded in evidence-based practices. A score of 4 is Exemplary. A program may have exemplary components but is unlikely to score exemplary in all categories.

Rating Scale:

- 4 - Exemplary evidence
- 3 - Sufficient evidence
- 2 - Minimal evidence
- 1 - Evidence not present

The programs approved by the ELCC:

Approved unanimously January 24, 2024

1. CKLA by Amplify 3.29

2. Wit and Wisdom with Geodes and Really Great Reading 3.01

Approved unanimously February 6, 2024

3. EL by Open Up Resources 3.1

Approved February 14, 2024

4. Bookworms by Open Up Resources 2.93

After a rich discussion, the council voted to include Bookworms on our list of recommended resources. The vote was 6-2 with Bill Hughes and Katie Kasubaski dissenting and Kari Fliltz not present.

The following programs scored below the 2.8 minimum threshold and the council voted 8-0 that these programs will not be recommended for the final 2024 list.

The council looks forward to reviewing updated editions in the coming years.

- *American Reading Company 2.57*
- *Open Court by McGraw Hill 2.7*
- *My View by SAVVAS 2.57*
- *Center for Collaborative Classroom 2.56*
- *Superkids by Zaner-Bloser 2.5*
- *Success for All Foundations 2.4*
- *IMSE 2.0*

DPI will complete the review of Ready 4 Reading by Scholastic and the ten other programs that were partial submissions, meaning they did not include both knowledge-building and/or foundational skills.

- **Fifteen resources appeared to meet the requirements of a comprehensive curriculum with all nine components. Therefore, the council chose to focus our compressed timeline on these materials.**

- One comprehensive program has five reviews. The members who reviewed the program recognized that the components were insufficient to proceed. This program could have been submitted as a partial program because it was missing complex grade-level text and read-alouds.
- Ten resources were partial submissions, meaning they did not meet the comprehensive guidelines set forth by ACT 20, therefore the council chose to delay reviewing them. DPI is completing their review, and council members plan to share in this work per the request of DPI. Two companies submitted their product names, but no materials were provided for review.