

Guidelines for WI Act 20

Curriculum Coordinator Melanie Giddings and Director Jim Rademan began working with Dr. Jon Roux (MLC), Dr. Cindy Whaley (MLC), and Dr. Mark Murphy (WLC) to collaborate around the growing reading legislations that have been passed in the United States. This group has developed and compiled video messages, details, and guidance, specifically on Wisconsin Act 20, as the group has been monitoring reading legislation in Wisconsin and other states with similar legislation. This communication specifically addresses what we know is true about Act 20 requirements as of Spring 2024. *It's important to recognize that this reading legislation continues to be a moving target, and new details about the implementation of the legislation and clarity around requirements are continually being updated from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.*

STARTING POINTS

For schools that are wondering: No, Superkids did not make the approved curriculum list. However, that does not mean that you have to necessarily replace it but may need to be supplemented.

What we know at this point in time:

- The DPI created this [comparison list](#) of all of the curriculum programs that were reviewed by the Early Literacy Curriculum Council (ELCC). To clear up confusion... when you look at the comparison list, you will see six "approved" curriculum programs. But a list of only 4 were approved since the ELCC recommended 4 curriculum programs (which are listed below) and Wisconsin's Joint Finance Committee did approve that list of 4, following how Act 20 was written. No other detailed evaluations have been provided. You can take a look at Superkids on the comparison list.
- The state of Wisconsin did not create a "naughty" or "bad curriculum program" list (like some other state's did create) to identify curriculum programs to not use. Last week at the Wisconsin School Choice virtual meeting, it was requested that Wisconsin School Choice look into sharing those lists from other states.
- In addition, for our WELS schools that are using Superkids or another ELA program for kindergarten – third grade, you can evaluate and determine what you may need to supplement by using this [Curriculum Crosswalk Toolkit](#). Since Wisconsin Act 20 focuses on kindergarten – third grade early literacy education, it is recommended for schools using Superkids for K-2 to also plan to evaluate the ELA programs in grade 3 as well.

REQUIREMENTS

Please note, if your WELS school **does not participate** in the Choice Programs, then there are no requirements that address your school. This includes which curriculum program your school uses for ELA instruction in kindergarten – third grade.

If your WELS school **does participate** in the Choice Programs, here is what does need to be done:

- Beginning July 1, 2024, schools cannot purchase curriculum programs or instruct using the 3-cueing method.
- By July 1, 2025, schools must implement a policy for the promotion of third graders to fourth grade that includes performance on the state ELA assessment, which includes reading, reading intervention for all tested students who are not at grade level in third grade.
- Beginning July 1, 2027, a Choice school cannot promote a third grade student to fourth grade unless the student satisfies the criteria in the promotion policy.

The Wisconsin DPI has a website that is being updated with the requirements for schools participating in the Choice Programs. The FAQ page has those requirements listed: <https://dpi.wi.gov/wi-reads/act-20-faq>

APPROVED CURRICULUM LIST & REIMBURSEMENT GRANT

As far as the approved curriculum (program) list that the ELCC evaluated does align with the Science of Reading research goes: For Choice Schools, you do not have to use one of the four programs listed below. However, selecting one of the programs listed below does allow for a Choice School to apply for the up to 50% [reimbursement grant](#) on curriculum program materials for kindergarten – third grade. These reimbursements will most likely not be paid out until early 2026. More curriculum programs may be added in the future.

Bookworms Reading and Writing K-3 (Open Up Resources, 2022)

Core Knowledge Language Arts K-3 (CKLA, Amplify Education, 2022)

**EL Education K-3 Language Arts (Open Up Resources, 2017)*

***Wit and Wisdom (Great Minds, 2020) with Geodes and PK-3 Reading Curriculum (Really Great Reading)*

QUESTIONS/ MORE INFORMATION

If you have more questions or would like more information about the 4 curriculum programs that are listed above, please feel free to contact Curriculum Coordinator Melanie Giddings at melanie.giddings@wels.net. As part of her previous call, she did facilitate a 22+ month ELA curriculum review and textbook evaluation process with Fox Valley Lutheran Schools in Appleton, WI.