LAKEVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
11107 Washburn Road, Otisville, MI 48463
Phone (810) 591-3980 ✦ Fax (810) 591-6538
www.lakevilleschools.org

Educate ✦ Engage ✦ Inspire

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LakeVille Community Schools Secures $116,487 State Literacy Grant to Implement Science-of-Reading K–5 Curriculum

Funding supports district-wide rollout of New Literacy Program at LakeVille Community Schools

OTISVILLE, Mich. (Oct. 19, 2026) — LakeVille Community Schools has been awarded a $116,487 grant under Section 35m of the Michigan State School Aid Act to implement a new Tier 1 K–5 literacy curriculum across the district. Approved by the Board of Education on August 11 following a successful pilot at Columbiaville Elementary, full implementation of the curriculum began at the start of the 2026–27 school year.

The district's adoption of *Collaborative Literacy,* which integrates the *Being a Reader* and *Being a Writer* programs, aligns with an $87 million statewide initiative from the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) under Public Act 146 of 2024. Evaluated and top-ranked by MDE's Committee for Literacy Achievement, the curriculum directly aligns with the science of reading and Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) instructional principles.

"Investing in the literacy of our students is one of the most powerful steps we can take to set them up for lifelong success," said Dr. James Yake, Superintendent of LakeVille Community Schools. "Adopting this research-based curriculum ensures every teacher has the evidence-based tools they need, and every student builds a strong, lasting foundation in reading and writing."

The K–5 framework provides unified classroom routines, explicit phonics and vocabulary instruction, differentiated small-group learning, and embedded professional development for educators. District teachers are already reporting early gains in student participation and academic achievement.

"I have been really excited about the implementation of *Being a Reader* and *Being a Writer* in our classroom," said Katelyn Carriero, a LakeVille third-grade teacher, district alumna, and published author. "The lessons and activities are deeply engaging, and it has been wonderful to see how enthusiastic my students are about learning. They

genuinely look forward to the writing prompts, and I am already seeing them produce more writing at a higher quality than in previous years."

About LakeVille Community Schools

LakeVille Community Schools serves K–12 students across Genesee and Lapeer counties, committed to delivering rigorous, student-centered education in a supportive community environment.

Media Contact

Dr. James Yake, Superintendent

LakeVille Community Schools
www.lakevilleschools.org

jyake@lakevilleschools.org
810-591-3980