

Section 35j - Professional Development, Curriculum, and Supports grant

Grosse Ile Township Schools is committed to enhancing student literacy and learning through the comprehensive implementation of the Orton-Gillingham curriculum and the Wit & Wisdom curriculum. These evidence-based programs are designed to address diverse learning needs and promote critical thinking skills. In addition, the district employs the iReady benchmark assessment to monitor student progress and inform instruction, ensuring that all learners receive the support necessary to succeed. For further details, links to the curricular resources and benchmark assessments are provided below.

[Orton Gillingham](#) -

The Orton-Gillingham curriculum is a structured, multi-sensory approach to reading instruction that is particularly effective for students with dyslexia and other language-based learning difficulties. Developed by Dr. Samuel Orton and Anna Gillingham, this method emphasizes the connection between sounds and letters, allowing students to understand the phonetic structure of words. It incorporates visual, auditory, and tactile learning strategies, engaging multiple senses to reinforce concepts. By focusing on systematic instruction, individualized pacing, and continuous assessment, the Orton-Gillingham approach fosters a solid foundation in reading, spelling, and writing skills, ultimately empowering students to become confident, capable learners.

[Wit and Wisdom](#) -

Wit & Wisdom is an integrated English Language Arts curriculum designed to cultivate critical thinking and deep understanding through rich, diverse texts. It emphasizes the importance of building knowledge and fostering a love for reading by engaging students with high-quality literature, non-fiction, and poetry. The curriculum is structured around thematic units that encourage exploration and discussion, allowing students to make connections across subjects and develop their analytical skills. With a strong focus on writing and speaking, Wit & Wisdom promotes clear communication and the ability to articulate ideas effectively. By combining rigorous content with creative instruction, the curriculum aims to prepare students for success in both academics and real-world situations.

[iReady](#) -

The iReady benchmark assessment is a comprehensive tool designed to evaluate student performance in reading and mathematics. This adaptive assessment adjusts to each student's skill level, providing a personalized experience that accurately measures their understanding and abilities. The iReady assessment generates detailed reports that help educators identify students' strengths and areas for growth, allowing for targeted instruction tailored to individual needs. Additionally, the platform offers instructional resources aligned with assessment results, enabling teachers to implement effective strategies that support student learning. By regularly monitoring progress, iReady empowers educators to make data-driven decisions and foster a more responsive learning environment.