Houghton Lake Community Schools
4433 West Houghton Lake Drive • Houghton Lake, Michigan 48629
Superintendent, Ben Williams

August 20, 2026

Dear Collins Elementary School parents:

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

The district's current K–5 literacy curriculum, **Bookworms**, 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".

Michigan law and MDE guidance (MDE Memo), does not require districts to select a curriculum from the MDE list. The list is not exhaustive and represents one method for demonstrating alignment.

Collins Elementary School teachers and administration have conducted a local review process and maintain documentation indicating that our literacy curriculum, **Bookworms**, is evidence-based and aligned to the science of reading, including systematic and explicit instruction in phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension, consistent with MCL 380.1280f and MCL 388.1764k.

Collins Elementary School administration and the District will continue to monitor literacy instruction, student data, and guidance from the MDE as part of its regular curriculum review cycle. Any future curriculum changes will be communicated to families.

Sincerely,

Alicia Thompson
Principal, Collins Elementary School

Ben Williams
Superintendent, HLCS