

OFFICIAL NOTICE TO NORWAY-VULCAN FAMILIES

From: Office of the Superintendent & Elementary Administration

Date: 8/27/26

In accordance with [Section 164k\(e\)](#) of the State School Aid Act, Norway-Vulcan Area Schools is issuing this notice regarding its K–5 literacy curriculum.

A Tradition of Academic Excellence

Norway-Vulcan Area Schools is deeply committed to providing our students with a world-class education. Thanks to the dedication of our educators, students, and families, **Norway Elementary was recently ranked the #1 Elementary School in the Upper Peninsula by U.S. News & World Report**—a recognition that highlights our outstanding student performance, high reading proficiency, and dedication to academic success.

State Advisory Notice & Curriculum Review

Our current K–5 literacy curriculum, *Wonders* by McGraw-Hill, has played a key role in supporting our students' strong achievements. *Wonders* is a comprehensive, widely respected nationwide literacy program. However, it is not currently included on the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Recommended Literacy Materials List. Under Section 164k(e), state law requires us to notify families that curricula not on this state-compiled list are not designated by MDE as “evidence-based or aligned to state standards” through their specific evaluation process, “which could negatively impact student academic outcomes.”

Michigan law and MDE guidance ([MDE Memo](#)) clarify that districts are **not required** to select a curriculum exclusively from the MDE recommended list. The state's list is not exhaustive, and omission from the list does not reflect a lack of success in our classrooms, as evidenced by our top-tier state assessment results and regional rankings.

Our Next Steps

Even with our proven track record, Norway-Vulcan Area Schools is committed to continuous growth. To ensure our students continue to receive the most effective, research-backed instruction available, the district initiated a comprehensive K–5 core literacy review process on August 1, 2026, with an anticipated completion date of May 28, 2027. This evaluation will ensure our future curriculum selections align seamlessly with updated state frameworks while maintaining the high academic standards our community expects.

Sincerely,

Bruce Tapio
NVAS Superintendent

Tony Mendina
NVES Principal