

Big Jackson Public Schools
4020 13 Mile Road
Paris, MI 49338
(231) 796-8947

September 15, 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians;

Big Jackson Public Schools is a small K–5 district located in northern Newaygo County. We write to document our current approach to elementary reading instruction in light of Michigan’s K–12 Literacy and Dyslexia Laws (PA 146 and PA 147 of 2024 / MCL 380.1280f) and the Evidence-based Tier-1, Class-wide Elementary Reading Curricula List published by the Michigan Department of Education.

Our core reading curriculum is not currently included on the State of Michigan’s approved list of evidence-based Tier-1, class-wide elementary reading curricula. However, this curriculum has been adopted and is in use across all districts in Newaygo County. Area-wide implementation also allows our Intermediate School District (Newaygo County RESA) and local educators to pool resources for coaching, materials, and ongoing support.

Big Jackson Public Schools maintains and implements Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework aligned with Michigan’s MTSS Practice Profile and Reading-Tiered Fidelity Inventory expectations. Within this structure we intentionally incorporate two components that appear on MDE’s approved lists:

UFLI Foundations (University of Florida Literacy Institute) – used as a foundational skills / word-recognition component to strengthen explicit, systematic phonemic awareness, phonics, and decoding instruction; and mCLASS with DIBELS 8th Edition – used as our progress-monitoring assessment to identify students who need additional support, monitor growth, and guide instructional at Tiers 1, 2, and 3.

These approved tools are used to help our daily Tier-1 instruction and intervention practices so that foundational reading skills are targeted to each student. Our MTSS process ensures that screening data, progress-monitoring results, and classroom performance inform timely support for any student demonstrating difficulty reading skills.

We remain committed to the science of reading and improvement. We will continue to monitor student outcomes, and any future updates to MDE’s approved curricula and assessment lists.

Please contact principal Jennifer Farmer if additional documentation, data, or clarification would be helpful.

Thank you for your partnership in advancing literacy outcomes for your student(s).

Sincerely,

Jennifer Farmer and Margaret Baker

Jennifer Farmer and Margaret Baker
Principal and Superintendent
Big Jackson Public Schools

cc: Newaygo County RESA
Big Jackson Board of Education