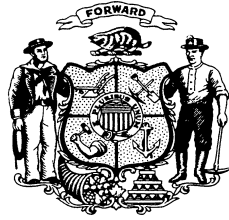


STATE OF WISCONSIN

SENATE CHAIR
Howard Marklein

316 East, State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882
Phone: (608) 266-0703



ASSEMBLY CHAIR
Mark Born

308 East, State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708-8952
Phone: (608) 266-2540

JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

For Immediate Release
Senator Howard Marklein – (608) 266-0703
Representative Mark Born – (608) 266-2540

March 11, 2024

JFC Approves Four Literacy Curricula for Reimbursement

MADISON, WI – Today, the Joint Committee on Finance (JFC) approved four early literacy curricula for reimbursement under 2024 Wisconsin Act 20 and the state budget. These curricula were recommended by the Council on Early Literacy Curriculum. Following the meeting, the Co-Chairs Representative Mark Born (R-Beaver Dam) and Senator Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green) made this statement:

“Reading scores in our state are shocking. Over 60% of fourth graders aren’t proficient at reading, which has impacts on students throughout their K-12 education and into their adult lives. It’s why the Legislature prioritized funding in the budget for literacy initiatives to help get our students back on track.

“Our action today respects the work of the experts on the Council on Early Literacy Curriculum by approving the list of four curricula they recommended for reimbursement. The committee also recognizes there are other curricula that meet the standards of Act 20, and school boards throughout the state continue to have the discretion to select the educational program that works best for their community.

“We appreciate the time and dedication of the Council members to give us a list of leading early literacy curricula that will now be reimbursed under the state-funded grant program. Whether school districts choose one of the four recommended by the Council or another that meets the criteria of Act 20, the shift back to the science of reading will be integral to the success of our students.”

###