

Understanding ACT 20: New legislation enacted to enhance early literacy across Wisconsin.

The School District of Beloit's Literacy Plan aligns with Act 20 and is designed to support and enhance reading instruction from the early grades. Our plan provides a framework that complements and strengthens our existing literacy practices to ensure that every child receives the support they need to succeed academically.

Our teachers and staff are dedicated to continuously improving literacy practices. Act 20 provides an opportunity for us to fine-tune our strategies and timelines, helping us to better meet the needs of all students. During the year of 2024-25 all staff in grades 4K-5 grade are participating in explicit training through The Rollins Center for Literacy & Language to increase our knowledge and skills to teach reading foundations to our students.

More information on the The School District of Beloit's Literacy Plan can be found at: [Disclosures](#)

What is Act 20?

Act 20 is a state law that requires schools to teach and assess early literacy skills for students in grades 4K-3. This helps ensure that every child receives the support they need to develop strong reading skills. Our core reading materials have been identified by the Department of Public Instruction as appropriate resources for teachers in the areas of reading: phonological awareness, phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, writing, building background knowledge, oral language, reading fluency and comprehension.

Key Components of the Assessment(s) (Universal Screener and Diagnostic)

All students in grades 4K-3 will participate in a universal screener up to three times a year that identifies areas of strengths and areas of improvement. For the 2024-25 school year, the students will be assessed in mid-January and spring.

In addition, students that are identified by the universal screener as being in the bottom 25th percentile will have diagnostic reading assessment information to inform a personal reading plan that could include:

- Phonemic awareness
- Decoding skills
- Alphabet knowledge
- Letter sound knowledge
- Oral vocabulary
- Rapid Naming
- Phonological awareness
- Word recognition
- Spelling
- Vocabulary
- Listening and reading comprehension (when appropriate)

How Will Families Get Reading Information?

Starting in the 2024-2025 school year, schools must provide the following within 15 days after scoring the assessment:

- The child's score and scores in each literacy skill category.
- The child's percentile rank, if available.
- Definition of "at-risk" and what score indicates this status.
- Plain language explanation of what the assessment measures.

If a child advances to 4th grade without completing their personal reading plan, parents will be notified about the ongoing interventions.

Do Parents Need to Acknowledge Receipt of Notification?

Yes, parents must sign and return the personal reading plan to the school. This is a notification, not a consent form.

Additional Information for At-Risk Students

If a diagnostic assessment shows a child is at risk, schools will provide information and details about:

- Dyslexia and its characteristics.
- Interventions and accommodations for dyslexia
- Special Education process in SDB.