

Understanding Wisconsin's Act 20: Enhancing Literacy for Our Students

We would like to take an opportunity to share some of the upcoming mandates associated with Wisconsin's Act 20, a recent legislation aimed at improving literacy outcomes for students across our state. This initiative brings several requirements that will impact our local approach to teaching reading, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to develop strong literacy skills.

What is Act 20?

Wisconsin's Act 20 was designed to enhance reading proficiency among students in grades 4K-3. The goal is to ensure that all children are reading at or above grade level by the end of third grade. Recognizing the critical importance of early literacy, this act implements specific measures to support our students in achieving this goal.

Key Requirements of Act 20

1. **Early Literacy Screening:** Schools are required to conduct screenings for early literacy skills in the early elementary grades. This helps us identify students who may need additional support early in their educational journey.
2. **Personalized Reading Plans:** For students who demonstrate reading difficulties, schools are required to develop a Personalized Reading Plan (PRP). This plan will include specific goals, strategies, and interventions tailored to meet each child's unique needs. It is a collaborative effort involving teachers, parents, and, of course, the students themselves.
3. **Regular Progress Monitoring:** The act mandates regular progress monitoring to track the effectiveness of interventions and adjust them as necessary. This ensures that each student receives the support they need to improve their reading skills.
4. **Family Involvement:** Act 20 emphasizes the importance of family engagement in a child's literacy development. Schools will provide resources and strategies for parents to support reading at home, fostering a strong home-school connection.
5. **Professional Development for Educators:** To implement these requirements effectively, educators will receive training on best practices in literacy instruction and intervention strategies. This professional development ensures that our teachers are equipped with the latest tools and knowledge to support our students.

What This Means for You

As parents and guardians, your involvement is crucial in this process. Here are some ways you can support your child's reading journey:

- **Encourage Reading at Home:** Make reading a daily habit. Share books that interest your child and discuss the stories together.
- **Stay Informed:** Watch for updates from your child's teacher regarding their reading progress and any Personalized Reading Plans.
- **Participate in School Activities:** Join literacy events and workshops offered by the school to learn more about how to support your child's reading development.

We are committed to ensuring that every child in our school has the tools they need to succeed in reading and beyond. If you have any questions about Act 20 or how it impacts your child's education, please feel free to reach out.

Thank you for your continued partnership in fostering a love for reading in our children!