

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY**

**INFORMATIONAL REPORT PRESENTATION**

**READING PROFICIENCY INFORMATION**

**FEBRUARY 27, 2023**

**BACKGROUND:**

As part of its comprehensive reading instructional program, Harford County Public Schools includes daily phonics and phonological awareness instruction for elementary students. Skills and practice in these areas are key to building skilled readers in all learners. The use of decodable books in elementary reading classrooms supports both the practice and acquisition of phonics and phonological awareness in young readers. In addition, research shows that students who have the immediate and ongoing access to books that a classroom library provides have higher levels of reading achievement, increased levels of reading comprehension, and a more extensive vocabulary.

**DISCUSSION:**

During this presentation, the following will be addressed regarding the purchase of decodable books and classroom library materials for elementary schools.

- The importance and use of decodable books and robust classroom libraries within the larger context of the Harford County Public Schools comprehensive reading instructional program.
- The student achievement and proficiency data connected to reading that supports the positive impact decodables and classroom libraries have on literacy skills.
- Additional details regarding the specific items being requested for purchase.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION**

The Superintendent of Schools recommends that the Board of Education accept this informational report and approve the purchase of decodable books and classroom library materials.