PIED PIPER SCHOOL

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LAUREN GRULKE, PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

Pied Piper School, operated by the Alpena-Montmorency-Alcona Educational Service District (AMA ESD), partners with local school districts to provide specialized, center-based educational programming and services for students ages 3–26. Pied Piper serves students from Alcona Community Schools, Alpena Public Schools, Atlanta Community Schools, and Hillman Community Schools. Student placement is a collaborative decision made through the local district team and the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process.

Pied Piper supports students whose individual needs require more intensive programming, specialized instruction, services, and accommodations than can be provided in a general education setting. Programming includes Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE), center-based special education classrooms, and a Transition Program focused on preparing students for greater independence after school.

Instruction is individualized to meet each student's unique needs and may include academics, communication, personal care, independent living skills, social-emotional development, motor skills, vocational training, and physical education. Our goal is to provide meaningful learning experiences, build independence, and help every student reach their fullest potential!

In accordance with Section 164k(e) & Section 22b3 of the State School Aid Act, Pied Piper School is issuing this notice regarding its K–5 literacy curriculum.

The district's current K–5 literacy curriculum, Unique Learning Systems (ULS), is not included on the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Recommended Literacy Materials List. Under Section 164k(e) and Section 22b3, curricula not included on this list are not designated by MDE as "evidence-based or aligned to state standards" through the recommended list process, "which could negatively impact student academic outcomes".

Michigan law and MDE guidance (MDE Memo), does not require districts to select a curriculum from the MDE list. The list is not exhaustive and represents one method for demonstrating alignment.

Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Pied Piper School is required to provide specially designed instruction and related services consistent with each student's Individualized Education Program (IEP). Because students served by Pied Piper School have a wide range of learning, communication, cognitive, and support needs, instructional decisions must be individualized based on each student's unique needs, goals, present levels of performance, and IEP.

ULS serves as an instructional resource that teachers may adapt and supplement to provide accessible, specially designed literacy instruction aligned to each student’s IEP and individual learning needs. Our priority remains delivering tailored, high-quality instruction that supports your child's personal growth and academic success.

If you have any questions about your child's literacy instruction or IEP, please do not hesitate to contact our administration or your child's teaching team.

Sincerely,

Lauren Grulke

Lauren Grulke
Pied Piper School Principal
Pied Piper School