



# HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

## STATE OF MICHIGAN

### Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

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1. The sponsoring representative's first name:  
Will
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:  
Snyder
3. The cosponsoring representatives' names. All cosponsors must be listed. If none, please type 'n/a.' A signed letter from the sponsor approving the co-sponsorship and a signed letter from the member wishing to co-sponsor are required. Attach letters at question #9 below.  
n/a.
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:  
Beyond Basics
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:  
31700 Middlebelt Road, Suite 200 Farmington Hills, MI 48334
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:  
n/a.
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:  
Statewide
8. Purpose of the legislatively directed spending item. Please include how it provides a public benefit and why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding. Please also demonstrate that the item does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution. Beyond Basics is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 1999 and dedicated to transforming students' lives through literacy. Its intensive, student-centered approach is holistic, multi-sensory, and grounded in phonics. The organization currently operates in more than 50 schools across 10 Michigan counties and employs over 250 trained tutors statewide. Each tutor receives approximately \$3,000 in professional training and mentorship to ensure the delivery of high-quality, impactful instruction. Beyond Basics' diverse staff is 78% female and 40% minority.

This grant funding will enable Beyond Basics to sustain its literacy intervention programs in existing partner schools and expand into neighboring districts, bringing its proven model to more students in need. By leveraging existing school infrastructure, Beyond Basics serves as a turnkey solution for districts seeking effective, results-driven literacy support.

Funding evidence-based literacy interventions to increase college and workforce readiness is a compelling public benefit and an appropriate use of taxpayer funding.

- College Retention: In Michigan, over 35% of students at open-admission public universities do not return after their first year, often citing academic unpreparedness.
- Enrollment Decline: Since 2011, Michigan's public universities have experienced a decline of more than 45,000 students—four times the national average.
- Workforce Readiness: Many high school graduates lack the 8.9-grade reading level required to access vocational training or employment. Local workforce development agencies frequently turn away applicants who do not meet this threshold.

### The Need for Action

The 2024 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) reveals that no state has more than 43% of eighth graders reading proficiently. Michigan ranks 41st in the nation. This data underscores an urgent need for targeted, effective literacy interventions. For 20 years, Beyond Basics has been at the forefront of addressing Michigan's literacy crisis. The organization's Gold Star Standard to Reading Proficiency™ is a comprehensive, phonics-based intervention model that helps students make significant reading gains—often advancing one or more grade levels within six weeks.

### How the Program Works - Proven Literacy Model:

- Turnkey, evidence-based literacy intervention
- Aligned with the National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) literacy components: Phonemic Awareness | Phonics | Fluency | Vocabulary | Comprehension
- Gold Star Standard to Reading Proficiency™:
  - o Diagnostic assessments
  - o Live, one-on-one tutoring with an assigned instructor (virtual or in-person)
  - o One-on-One Daily Tutoring

### Phonics-Based, Multi-Sensory Curriculum Impact:

- To date, Beyond Basics has served approximately 15,000 students in K–12 schools across Michigan, helping them become confident, proficient readers and improving their long-term academic and life outcomes.
- Grade-level gains in as little as six weeks
- Effective for students with ADHD, dyslexia, autism, and ELL

Whole-Child Engagement: Fine arts enrichment activities are incorporated to build

student confidence, support holistic development, and enhance vocabulary and comprehension.

9. Attach documents here if needed:

Attachments added to the end of this file.

10. The amount of state funding requested for the legislatively directed spending item.

6000000

11. Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received any of the following types of funding? Check all that apply.

["Federal","State","Private"]

12. Please select one of the following groups that describes the entity requesting the legislatively directed spending item:

Non-profit organization

13. For a non-profit organization, has the organization been operating within Michigan for the preceding 36 months?

Yes

14. For a non-profit organization, has the entity had a physical office within Michigan for the preceding 12 months?

Yes

15. For a non-profit organization, does the organization have a board of directors?

Yes

16. For a non-profit organization, list all the active members on the organization's board of directors and any other officers. If this question is not applicable, please type 'n/a.'

Selam Sanders Chairperson Pamela Good President Antonio Pittiglio, CPA Treasurer  
Patrick Rugiero Gina Coleman Ethan Gross R. J. King

17. "I certify that neither the sponsoring representative nor the sponsoring representative's staff or immediate family has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the legislatively directed spending item."

Yes, this is correct

18. Anticipated start and end dates for the legislatively directed spending item:

October 2025 through September 2028

19. "I hereby certify that all information provided in this request is true and accurate."

Yes