



February 10, 2026

Rep. James Tipton
Chair, House Families and Children Committee
702 Capital Avenue, Room 381
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Representative Tipton,

On behalf of the members of the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence, I am writing to express my support for **House Bill 253**, particularly as reflected in the House Committee Substitute. The Committee is deeply committed to advancing high-quality literacy and numeracy foundations in early childhood and primary education across the Commonwealth, and we want to thank you for your leadership in championing evidence-based literacy practices that will have a lasting impact on Kentucky's children.

HB 253 (HCS 1) takes an important and long-overdue step by ensuring that all students receive reading instruction grounded in the science of reading, and setting a clear timeline for phasing out practices—such as the three-cueing system—that research has repeatedly shown to be ineffective. The establishment of an approved list of scientifically researched, evidence-based curricula and interventions, paired with clear expectations for district implementation, will bring much-needed consistency and quality to early literacy instruction across the state.

Alignment of educator preparation programs with evidence-based reading instruction is another critical advancement. By requiring institutions to teach scientifically grounded methods—and prohibiting instruction in outdated strategies like three-cueing—HB 253 helps guarantee that new teachers enter the classroom fully prepared to deliver high-quality literacy instruction from day one. We are particularly encouraged to see early childhood teachers included in the requirement to complete science-of-reading professional learning by 2029, acknowledging the critical role they play in early literacy development. Recognizing that the foundation for reading success begins well before kindergarten is grounded in strong evidence.

We are grateful for the provisions that strengthen supports for students with dyslexia. Shifting local dyslexia policies from optional to required, improving the alignment with universal screening requirements, and enhancing district data reporting will help ensure early identification and timely, effective interventions for the students who need them most. These updates represent meaningful



progress toward ensuring that every child, regardless of their learning profile, receives the instruction and support necessary to thrive.

Representative Tipton, your commitment to ensuring that Kentucky's literacy policies reflect the strongest available research will make a profound difference for students, families, and educators across the Commonwealth. Thank you for your dedication to strengthening early learning and for advancing a bill that prioritizes what works for children.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if we can be of assistance as this legislation moves forward. We look forward to supporting its continued progress.

Respectfully,

Brigitte Blom
President and CEO
Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence