



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

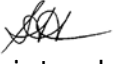
RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** May 4, 2017

**TO:** Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents  
Public School Academy Directors

**FROM:** Sheila A. Alles   
Chief Deputy Superintendent

**SUBJECT:** Announcing the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Reading Law Assessments

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is required to identify assessments that districts will use to assist with having all students reading at grade level by the end of third grade (MCL: 380.1280f). As a part of this effort, an Action Team consisting of educational stakeholders from around the state designed a Call for Information on assessments that will assist districts in benchmarking, screening, and with building a diagnostic understanding of student performance. This process yielded more than 100 responses from educators, vendors, and Michigan stakeholders. Thank you to everyone who took the time to contribute to this important process.

The MDE approved submissions that meet the requirements for use during the 2017-2018 academic year. Submissions that did not meet all technical grounds were denied (e.g., did not submit documentation, did not address the target grade band).

For this legislation, approved assessments qualify in two categories: initial and extensive assessment. The intent of the initial assessment is to be delivered to all students and act as a primary indicator that a student may be at risk of falling behind or illustrate an area of concern for which additional instruction/support in English Language Arts may be needed. The extensive assessment may be delivered only to those students for which an area of concern has been identified. The extensive assessment will assist educators with better identifying the areas in which to focus intervention. (It is important to know that not all extensive assessments may be appropriate for any particular area of concern. Districts will have to determine which extensive assessment is appropriate for which area of concern.)

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Districts will select one assessment from the list of initial assessments, and at least one from the list of extensive assessments to use for the 2017-2018 school year. It is understood that student needs may warrant a rationale for using multiple extensive assessments, including assessments not on the list, and districts are encouraged to design an assessment system that provides staff with meaningful data to support all students' mastery of content.

For more information including the list of initial and extensive assessments, resources for designing a comprehensive assessment system, and information on how to strengthen Formative Assessment Practices; please visit [http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-28753\\_74161-410821--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-28753_74161-410821--,00.html).

Thank you for all you do to support the parents/guardians in your district or academy.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact [MDE-EarlyLiteracy@michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-EarlyLiteracy@michigan.gov).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance