



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** March 5, 2020

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

**FROM:** Venessa A. Keesler, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent *V. Keesler*  
Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports

**SUBJECT:** CEPI/MSDS Retention Collection Webpage

In 2016, the Michigan State Legislature passed Michigan's Read by Grade Three law ([MCL 380.1280f](#)) and districts have since been implementing components of the law. As outlined within the law, subsection 16 requires districts to report retention decisions to the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) no later than September 1 of each school year, beginning in 2020.

Districts are responsible for marking each student potentially flagged for retention by the 2020 ELA M-STEP as retained or promoted, within the [Third Grade Retention Collection](#) in the Michigan Student Data System (MSDS). For each student promoted, districts will have to identify the reason or good cause exemption. While schools do not need to submit evidence that supports promotion to the state (e.g., local assessment data, Individual Reading Improvement Plans, or portfolios), schools should maintain this information in a student's CA60.

For additional questions and support regarding the Read by Grade Three law, please contact the Michigan Department of Education at [mde-earlyliteracy@michigan.gov](mailto:mde-earlyliteracy@michigan.gov). For questions regarding the MSDS, please contact CEPI Customer Support at [CEPI@michigan.gov](mailto:CEPI@michigan.gov).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

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