



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** March 8, 2021

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

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

**SUBJECT:** Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant Awards

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is pleased to announce the five local education agencies (LEAs) that will receive federal literacy funds of approximately \$3 million each over a five-year period.

Districts to receive these awards are:

- Benton Harbor Area Schools
- Detroit Public Schools Community District
- Flint Community Schools
- Muskegon Heights Public School Academy
- Pontiac School District

MDE was awarded a \$16 million grant by the U.S. Department of Education (USED) through the federal literacy state development grant program. MDE [sought applications](#) in a competitive grant process from LEAs with low percentages of students at or above grade level in literacy. Additional consideration was given to LEAs that serve a high percentage of students who are economically disadvantaged, English learners, and/or children with disabilities.

Working with MDE, the five LEAs that MDE selected for this project will use the funds to build an educational and professional development literacy network to advance literacy skills, including pre-literacy skills, reading, and writing, for children and students from birth through grade 12. The network will aim to improve outcomes for all students and reduce disparities for underrepresented groups of students, including those who are economically disadvantaged, English learners, and students with disabilities.

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More information can be found on the [Michigan Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant](#) website, or by emailing [MDE-CLSDGrant@michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-CLSDGrant@michigan.gov).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance  
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors