



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING


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INTERIM STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** January 10, 2019

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

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

**SUBJECT:** Digital Literacy Course Launch – January 14, 2019

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is pleased to announce the launch of free Digital Literacy Courses, as part of the 104e-Assessment of Digital Literacy Grant Pilot. The purpose of this pilot is to build the capacity of K-8 student's digital literacy skills. In tandem with that, resources, curriculum, and professional development for teachers will be provided. The curriculum and assessments are based on the ISTE technology standards: Empowered Learner, Digital Citizen, Knowledge Constructor, Innovative Designer, Computational Thinker, Creative Communicator, and Global Collaborator, as well as the MITECS competencies. Additionally, to ensure robustness of the curriculum and assessments, the Digital Literacy pilot will leverage the Microsoft Digital Literacy Curriculum and the REMC Association of Michigan's 21 Things 4 Students.

The pilot supports the MDE's Top 10 in 10 strategic goal two, strategy 2.1, 2.6, 2.7 and 2.8 by:

- supporting the development of a coherent assessment system to support personalization of learning;
- engaging students in well-rounded learning experiences through engagement of digital literacy curriculum;
- providing access to personalized learning technologies that support and enhance those learning experiences; and
- creating an integrated system of guidance that includes curriculum, instruction, and assessment supported by technology with necessary classroom level resources provided.

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For example, in Kindergarten, students will begin to understand the basics of various forms of technology, as well as how to be safe and responsible digital citizens. The following grade level courses will continue to build on those foundational skills, as well as research, coding, evaluating reliable sources, and so much more!

Prior to the release of each of these courses, professional development for teachers will be offered. These professional development sessions will demonstrate how you can easily access the system, launch in your own classroom, and allow students to independently work through the lessons. Teacher professional development may be a blend of virtual and on-site training.

The pilot will offer to all users, access to a tiered support desk to ensure all needs are addressed as quickly as possible. All products produced through this project (digital resources, assessments, and curriculum) will be made available through the #GoOpen Michigan Repository.

The pilot is available to 50 districts and there are still spaces available. To sign-up or to request more information, please e-mail [support@kickstandsystems.com](mailto:support@kickstandsystems.com).

Details on newly appropriated 104f to follow in future memo.

If you have any questions regarding the pilot grant program, please contact Amanda Stoel at [stoela@michigan.gov](mailto:stoela@michigan.gov) or 517-241-3629.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance