



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 22, 2015

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

FROM: Susan Broman *SB*
Deputy Superintendent, Office of Great Start

Kyle Guerrant *KG*
Deputy Superintendent, Administration and School Support Services

Venessa A. Keesler, Ph.D. *Venessa*
Deputy Superintendent, Accountability Services

Norma Jean Sass *NJS*
Deputy Superintendent, Education Services

SUBJECT: Early Literacy (K-3) Grant Opportunities

As a part of the State 2015-2016 school aid appropriations (PA 85 of 2015 Sec. 35a and 104d.), the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is releasing a series of four (4) grants that are intended to increase student achievement in early literacy. The four grants cover the following areas:

- [Additional Instructional Time](#)
 - Section 35a(6) of the FY 2015 State School Aid Act provides \$17,500,000 to districts for additional instructional time to pupils in grades K-3 who have been identified as needing additional supports and interventions in order to be reading at grade level by the end of grade 3.
- [Literacy Coaches](#)
 - Section 35a(5) of the FY 2015 State School Aid Act provides \$3,000,000 for early literacy coaches at Intermediate School Districts
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(ISD) to assist teachers in developing and implementing instructional strategies for pupils in grades K-3 so that pupils are reading at grade level by the end of grade 3. Each ISD in the state is eligible for 50 percent funding of this position from the MDE in the amount of \$37,500.

- [Professional Development for Early Literacy Educators](#)
 - The FY2015 State School Aid Act appropriated \$1,900,000 for the 2015-16 and 2016-17 school years for a competitive grant to a local school district or ISD to support schools statewide through professional development for early literacy educators. This includes work with the Michigan Virtual University to create and implement online training.

- [Assessment Reimbursement](#)
 - Section 35a(4) and 104d of the FY 2015 State School Aid Act provides \$4,500,000 to districts for reimbursement for the purchase of a computer-adaptive test for each pupil enrolled in the district or that purchase one or more diagnostic tools, screening tools, or benchmark assessments for pupils in grades K-3 that are intended to increase reading proficiency by grade 4.

The applications for these grants will be available for Local Educational Agencies and eligible parties on October 22, 2015. You can find all applications and background information at www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-28753_74161---.00.html.

If you have questions regarding this communication or the 4 grants, please contact MDE-EarlyLiteracy@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance