



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 8, 2017

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

FROM: Sheila A. Alles 
Chief Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: Early Literacy Assessment Tools and the Third Grade Reading Law

Michigan's Third Grade Reading Law (MCL 380.1280f) requires the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) to provide an annual list of assessment tools that meet the requirements of "Initial Assessments" (those assessment tools that are applied universally as screeners or benchmark assessments) and "Extensive Assessments" (those that can provide diagnostic or formative information to support the needs of individual students that are deficient in some manner as identified through initial assessments), as identified in law. The process used to identify these lists resulted in over 100 submissions from districts, which were evaluated by the action team to generate assessments appropriate to each category and in compliance with this law.

A flaw in the process was identified that resulted in not all submissions being received for review. Also, some submissions were incomplete and, as a result, were not able to be fully considered. As a result, the MDE is calling for a second submission of materials in order to ensure the appropriate placement of assessments.

The MDE will conduct a more comprehensive review of all assessment tools originally submitted. This review will cover any updated information and will be done against the rubrics that determine if the assessment can be considered for initial, extensive or both assessment categories. We are asking assessment developers, either independently or with the districts that submitted information in the first round, to send additional information for consideration by June 23, 2017. (A separate mailing will be sent to those entities with more explicit directions.) A revised list of assessments will be published by the MDE in July 2017, with scores for each tool in order to assist districts in the decision making process.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Victor Bugni at bugniv@michigan.gov or MDE-EarlyLiteracy@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

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