



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 29, 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: Early Literacy (Pre-K to 3) Grant Opportunities

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is announcing two (2) grants that are intended to increase student achievement in early literacy. The grants were included in the revised state school aid act adopted under Public Act 165 of 2020 ([MCL 388.1635a](#)) and cover the following areas:

- [Additional Instructional Time](#)
 - Section 35a(5) of the Fiscal Year 2020-21 state school aid act provides \$19,900,000 to districts for additional instructional time to pupils in grades pre-K to 3, or, for the 2020-21 school year only, those pupils in pre-K to 12 who have been identified as needing additional supports and interventions to be reading at grade level by the end of grade 3, or, for the 2020-21 school year only, reading at the applicable grade level.
 - Grant funds will be allocated dependent upon the number of applicants and based on a formula for an equal amount per pupil based on the number of eligible first graders determined by the end of school year 2019-20 count. The grant award amount may vary from a previous award.
 - There will only be one (1) round of grant funding. The application opens October 29, 2020 and will remain open until November 25, 2020.
- [Literacy Coaches](#)
 - Section 35a(4) of the Fiscal Year 2020-21 state school aid act provides \$31,500,000 for early literacy coaches at intermediate school districts (ISDs) to assist teachers in developing and implementing instructional strategies for pupils in grades pre-K to 3 so that pupils are reading at grade level by the end of grade 3.

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- Each ISD is eligible to receive \$112,500 per coach and each ISD is eligible to maintain its current grant funding. If any ISD chooses to reduce its number of allocations, those allocations will be distributed to eligible ISDs based on the percentage of total statewide number of pupils in grades K to 3 who meet the income eligibility standards for the federal free and reduced-price lunch programs who are enrolled in districts in the ISDs. If applicable, ISDs eligible for additional funding will be contacted by MDE.
- The application opens October 29, 2020 and will remain open until November 25, 2020.

Applications for both grant opportunities, along with background information, can be found [here](#).

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

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors