



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** October 31, 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:** Early Literacy (K-3) Grant Opportunities

As a part of the State 2019-20 school aid appropriations (PA 58 of 2019 Sec. 35a), the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is releasing two (2) grants that are intended to increase student achievement in early literacy. These grants cover the following areas:

- [Additional Instructional Time](#)
  - Section 35a(5) of the FY 2019 State School Aid Act provides \$19,900,000 to districts for additional instructional time to pupils in grades K-3 who have been identified as needing additional supports and interventions to read at grade level by the end of grade 3.
  - Allocated grant funds will be dependent upon number of applicants and based on a formula for an equal amount per pupil based on the number of eligible first graders determined by end of school year 2018-19 count. The grant award amount may vary from your previous award.
  - **There will only be one (1) round of grant funding.** The application opens October 31, 2019 and will remain open until November 24, 2019.
- [Literacy Coaches](#)
  - Section 35a(4) of the FY 2019 State School Aid Act provides \$21,000,000 for early literacy coaches at intermediate school districts (ISD) to assist teachers in developing and implementing instructional strategies for pupils in grades K-3 so that pupils are

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reading at grade level by the end of grade 3. Each ISD in the state is eligible to receive \$75,000 per coach from MDE, but the ISD must provide funds for at least 50% of the grant amount awarded to support the cost of the coach. In other words, since grant awards may not exceed \$75,000 per coach, the maximum required ISD matching allocation would be \$37,500 per coach.

- Each ISD is eligible to maintain their current grant funding. MDE will distribute the remainder of grant funding for additional early literacy coaches in an amount not to exceed \$75,000 per early literacy coach and the ISD must provide \$37,500 per coach. The number of additionally funded early literacy coaches for each ISD will be based on the percentage of the 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 intermediate school district.
- The application opens October 31, 2019 and will remain open until November 24, 2019.

Applications and background information can be found at [www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-28753\\_74161---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-28753_74161---,00.html).

If you have questions regarding this communication or the grants, please contact [MDE-EarlyLiteracy@michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-EarlyLiteracy@michigan.gov).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance