



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 26, 2021

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

FROM: Delsa D. Chapman, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent
Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports

SUBJECT: Early Literacy (Pre-K to 3) Grant Opportunities

Students deserve the appropriate supports and opportunities to read at, or above, grade level starting early in their education. To support this effort, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is announcing two (2) grants intended to increase student achievement in early literacy. These two grants address additional instructional time and literacy coaches, and are included in section 35a of the state school aid act adopted under [Public Act 48 of 2021](#).

1. [Additional Instructional Time](#)
 - Section 35a(5) of the state school aid act provides \$19,900,000 to districts for additional instructional time to pupils in grades pre-K to 3 who have been identified as needing additional supports and interventions to be reading at grade level by the end of third grade.
 - Grant formula-based funds will be allocated based on the number of applicants, and are an equal amount per eligible first graders as determined by the end of the school year 2020-21 count. The grant award amount may vary from a previous year's award.
 - Because of the formula nature of the grant, there will only be one (1) round of grant funding. The application opens on August 26, 2021, and will remain open until 11:59 p.m. on September 26, 2021.

2. [Literacy Coaches](#)
 - Section 35a(4) of the 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 pupils are reading at grade level by the end of third grade.
 - Each ISD is eligible to receive \$112,500 per coach, and each ISD is eligible to maintain its current grant funding. If an ISD chooses to

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reduce its number of coaching allocations, those funds will be distributed to other eligible ISDs 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 within the ISD.

- There will only be one (1) round of grant funding. The application opens on August 26, 2021, and will remain open until 11:59 p.m. on September 26, 2021.
- If applicable, ISDs eligible for additional funding will be contacted by MDE after the application closes.

Applications for both grant opportunities, along with background information, can be found on the MDE [website](#).

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