



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** October 28, 2021

**TO:** Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents  
Public School Academy Directors  
Michigan Pre-K-12 Educators

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

**SUBJECT:** Family Engagement in Literacy Conference: *Building the Literacy Path from Home to School and School to Home*

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is hosting the free virtual conference for Pre-K through grade 6 educators and administrators, *Building the Literacy Path from Home to School and School to Home*, to be held from 3:00–6:00 p.m. ET on November 10, 2021. The keynote speaker is Dr. Patricia Edwards.

Dr. Edwards will provide school leaders and classroom teachers with new and creative ways to welcome, encourage, and engage parents in literacy. The conference will also promote the home-to-school partnership to help understand that families and communities are essential partners of teachers, support staff, and administrators in educating students.

Dr. Edwards is a member of the Reading Hall of Fame and is a Professor of Language and Literacy in the Teacher Education Department at Michigan State University. She is an internationally recognized expert in family engagement and has written several books on the topic. She is the immediate past chair of the American Educational Research Association's Family, School, Community Partnerships Special Interest Group and was recently appointed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer to serve on the Michigan Pre-K-12 Literacy Commission.

Following the keynote address, participants will have a choice of breakout sessions to dive deeper into valuable literacy resources to develop and engage in practices that foster and build relationships with families.

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Registration for this virtual conference can be found [here](#). For more information, please contact [mde-earlyliteracy@michigan.gov](mailto:mde-earlyliteracy@michigan.gov).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance  
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors