



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 8, 2020

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

FROM: Kyle L. Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent
Finance and Operations

SUBJECT: Library Resources Available to Schools

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Michigan eLibrary (MeL) resources are provided to all schools and libraries across Michigan. MeL offers reading and research materials for students who are either at school or learning at a distance. Whether the focus is on content-specific curriculum, [essential instructional practices](#) in literacy, or Michigan Integrated Technology Competencies for Students ([MITECS](#)), there are eResources that support teaching and learning at every grade level.

Educators can learn more about MeL eResources through [MeL's Educator Guide](#). The guide provides information on how educators can make the best use of the many eResources available through MeL. Educators can connect to [grades K-5](#) and [grades 6-12](#) eResources by visiting [MeL.org](#).

Educators can find [award-winning, multicultural/diverse titles](#) compiled by the [Library of Michigan](#), which may be found through the MeL service [MelCat.org](#). You can request these titles with your local public library.

Resources at the Local Public Library

Educators are encouraged to partner with public libraries to ensure that students and families are informed about programs and other resources that are provided by their local public libraries. Digital resources and programming provided to communities through their public library, combined with MeL resources, create a wealth of information on a variety of topics and subjects. Districts should contact their local public library to find out what current services and programs are available. You can use the [Michigan library directory](#) to locate local public libraries.

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608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
www.michigan.gov/mde • 833-633-5788

During COVID-19, many public libraries have changed their usual service operations. Capacity limitations in public libraries, as well as social distancing and other health requirements, will be in place according to local health department guidelines. Many public libraries are offering curbside checkout, appointment-based services, grab-n-go activities, parking lot Wi-Fi, and virtual programs to ensure their community members continue to have access to library services. Local school districts should connect with public libraries for e-cards to support student access to the e-resources available from the library and [MeL.org](https://www.mel.org).

Learn About MeL With EduPaths

Educators can dive deeper into the MeL resources by taking [EduPaths](#) self-paced courses to increase their own knowledge and also participate in high-quality professional development. MeL courses in the EduPaths portal can be found in the [EduPaths MeL Pathway](#). Currently, there are five courses available to assist educators with integrating MeL eResources in the classroom either in person or online, with additional courses expected to be added throughout the year.

- Michigan eLibrary: Intro to Michigan's Best Kept FREE Secret
- Michigan eLibrary: What Every Educator Should Know
- Michigan eLibrary: Curriculum Connections: K-5 Social Studies
- Michigan eLibrary: Career, College & Military Preparation
- Michigan eLibrary: Supporting Early Literacy

Educators who complete the EduPaths courses earn free state continuing education clock hours (SCECHs).

Getting Started with MeL

PreK-3 Grades: [PebbleGo](#) – Content available from the animal and social studies modules. For beginning readers, this eResource includes read-along audio, multimedia, and activity sheets.

K-7 Grades: [eBooks K-8](#) – Thousands of fiction and nonfiction titles. Available as PDFs, EPUBs, or downloadable files.

8-12 Grades: [eBooks High School](#) – Thousands of fiction and nonfiction titles. Includes a selection of teacher resources. Available as PDFs, EPUBs, or downloadable files.

For more information or questions regarding MeL, please contact Liz Breed at 517-335-1497 or breedl@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors