



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

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SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

April 4, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Regional Literacy Training Center Directors

FROM: Sally Vaughn, Ph.D. *Sally*
Deputy Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer

SUBJECT: Reading First Funding for 2008-2009

The Regional Literacy Training Centers have been a valuable asset to school districts in Michigan since their inception. They have provided professional development to educators, created many significant products for teachers and administrators, and have been a productive partner in the Reading First initiative.

The Regional Literacy Training Centers were funded through Reading First to provide teacher training opportunities and literacy resources to all pre-K through 3rd grade and K-12 special education teachers in order to promote scientifically based reading instruction to ensure that all children will read at grade level by the end of third grade. Over the past six years, the Regional Literacy Training Centers have succeeded in carrying out this mission. We thank you for your dedication to this end.

President Bush signed legislation on December 26, 2007, that reduced the funding for Reading First by sixty-one percent. This reduction in funding is having profound and far-reaching consequences for Michigan. The state will decrease the number of previously funded Reading First schools, professional development will be reduced, Reading First coaches may be displaced, and state level staff will be reduced.

Due to the reduction in funding, the Regional Literacy Training Centers will receive reduced funding as well. We anticipate that each Regional Literacy Training Center will receive \$75,000 for the 2008-2009 school year. These funds are contingent on the State of Michigan's allocation from the United States Department of Education. While we are disappointed with this reduction, we are confident that we will continue to provide high quality professional development for educators. With your help we will continue with our mission of ensuring that all children learn to read well by the end of third grade.

cc: Intermediate School District Superintendents

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