



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

SHEILA A. ALLES
INTERIM STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 11, 2019

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors
Local Education Agency Principals

FROM: Venessa A. Keesler, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent 
Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports

SUBJECT: Announcing the 2019-20 Read by Grade Three Law Assessments

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is required under the [Read by Grade Three Law](#) to identify assessments that districts will use to assist with having all students reading at grade level by the end of third grade. The MDE approved assessment lists also help districts and schools in creating a comprehensive screening and assessment system which is an essential component of districts and schools in having a complete program for early literacy to support efforts in raising literacy proficiency and is in alignment with [Goal 2 of the Top 10 in 10 Years State Strategic Plan](#).

As a part of this effort, the MDE Literacy Team conducted a Call for Information on assessments that will assist districts in benchmarking, screening, and with building a diagnostic understanding of student performance.

The MDE has approved submissions that meet the requirements for use during the 2019-20 academic year. For this legislation, approved assessments qualify in two categories: initial and extensive assessment. The intent of the initial assessment is to be delivered to all students and act as a primary indicator that a student may be at risk of falling behind or illustrate an area of concern for which additional instruction/support in English Language Arts may be needed. The extensive assessment may be delivered only to those students for which an area of concern has been identified. The extensive assessment will assist educators with better identification of areas in which to focus intervention.

Districts will select one assessment from the list of initial assessments, and at least one from the list of extensive assessments to use for the 2019-2020 school year. It is understood that student needs may warrant a rationale for using multiple extensive

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Page2
April 11, 2019

assessments, including assessments not on the list, and districts are encouraged to design an assessment system that provides staff with meaningful data to support all students' mastery of content.

For more information, including the list of initial and extensive assessments, resources for designing a comprehensive assessment system, and information on how to strengthen Formative Assessment Practices; please visit http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-28753_74161-410821--,00.html.

Thank you for all you do to support the parents/guardians in your district or academy.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact MDE-EarlyLiteracy@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance