



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** March 11, 2021

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

**FROM:** William A. Pearson, Ed.D., Interim Deputy Superintendent  
Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports *WAP*

**SUBJECT:** Planning for Book-Based Summer Reading

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is publishing the Early Literacy Summer Reading Guide 2021 to support students in summer reading as we pivot to a new, better normal. This guidance is an urgent call to action for school leaders to plan now for book-based summer reading programs.

Research-informed, book-based reading programs are one option for schools to encourage literacy development during the summer months. Key factors that increase the effectiveness of book programs include student choice in books, book selections distributed over time, and student engagement opportunities. A book-based program is also an opportunity to increase the diversity of the literature available for students to read.

Multiple state and federal funding sources are available to schools for purchasing summer book programs.

Some of these funding sources may include, among others:

- State Aid Section [35a\(5\) Additional Instructional Time](#)
- State Aid Section [31a At-Risk](#)
- Federal [Title I](#) & [Title IV](#)
- Federal (CARES ACT) [ESSER & ESSER II](#)
- Federal [GEER & GEER II](#)

The [Early Literacy Summer Reading Guide 2021](#) is available on the MDE Literacy website. For further information, please contact [MDE-EarlyLiteracy@michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-EarlyLiteracy@michigan.gov).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance  
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors

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608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909  
[www.michigan.gov/mde](http://www.michigan.gov/mde) • 833-633-5788