



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** August 27, 2020

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

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

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

**SUBJECT:** Technical Support Webinars

On Monday, August 17, 2020, the legislature passed House Bills 5911-5913, otherwise known as the Return to Learn bills. Governor Whitmer signed these bills into law on Thursday, August 20, 2020; they are now Public Acts 147, 148 and 149 of 2020. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) sent out two memos on Friday, August 21, 2020 to support the field in understanding and implementing these laws. MDE now announces a series of technical support webinars.

The intent of the webinars is to provide information and answer questions on Public Acts 147, 148, and 149 of 2020 for local education agency (LEA) staff around three important areas:

- Read by Grade 3 requirements during learning at a distance
- Benchmark assessments meeting the Return to Learn Law
- Pupil accounting for the 2020-21 academic year

Webinars will be repeated and recorded to provide flexibility for attendance. Below is a schedule for each topic.

**Read by Grade 3 (RBG3):**

Tues, 9/1/2020  
9:00 – 9:30 AM  
[Webinar Link](#)

Wed, 9/9/2020  
12:00 – 12:30 PM  
[Webinar Link](#)

Thurs, 9/17/2020  
2:00 – 2:30 PM  
[Webinar Link](#)

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

CASANDRA E. ULBRICH – PRESIDENT • PAMELA PUGH – VICE PRESIDENT  
MICHELLE FECTEAU – SECRETARY • TOM MCMILLIN – TREASURER  
TIFFANY D. TILLEY – NASBE DELEGATE • JUDITH PRITCHETT  
LUPE RAMOS-MONTIGNY • NIKKI SNYDER

This presentation will provide an overview of the Read by Grade 3 law and a reminder of the requirements related to screening students within the first 30 days of the school year and developing individual reading improvement plans within the next 30 days of the school year. Presentations will be made by Dr. Brandy Bugni, MDE's literacy manager.

For questions about the RBG3 webinar series, please contact [MDE-EarlyLiteracy@michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-EarlyLiteracy@michigan.gov).

**Benchmark Assessments:**

Wed, 9/2/2020	Thurs, 9/10/2020	Tues, 9/15/2020
9:00 – 9:30 AM	12:00 – 12:30 PM	2:00 – 2:30 PM
<a href="#">Webinar Link</a>	<a href="#">Webinar Link</a>	<a href="#">Webinar Link</a>

This presentation will provide an overview of the requirements of Public Act 149, including but not limited to the need to administer a locally chosen benchmark assessment within the first nine weeks of school and in the last nine weeks of school. For more information prior to the webinar, please see this [benchmark assessments](#) memo issued by MDE on August 21, 2020.

Presentations will be made by Kate Cermak, MDE's test administration manager, with introductory remarks by Dr. Venessa Keesler, Deputy Superintendent of the Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports.

For questions about the benchmark assessments webinar series, please contact [MDE-OEAA@michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-OEAA@michigan.gov).

**Pupil Accounting:**

Thurs, 9/3/2020	Tues, 9/8/2020	Wed, 9/16/2020
9:00 – 10:00 AM	12:00 – 1:00 PM	2:00- 3:00 PM
<a href="#">Webinar Link</a>	<a href="#">Webinar Link</a>	<a href="#">Webinar Link</a>

Presentations will be made by Brian Ciloski, MDE's state aid and school finance specialist, with introductory remarks by Kyle Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent of the Division of Finance and Operations. For more information prior to this webinar, please see this [days and hours](#) memo issued by MDE on August 21, 2020.

Please submit questions about the Pupil Accounting webinar series using the [Pupil Accounting Q&A form](#).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance  
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors