



putting Michigan on the map as a premier education state

LITERACY IN MICHIGAN

WHAT

Michigan has identified literacy as a focus area to support educators and learners. We know that students' abilities to demonstrate proficiency on assessments and in their lives depends deeply on skills and knowledge beyond decoding, word naming, and comprehension. MDE has chosen to focus on literacy that includes reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Our state must work collectively to improve literacy outcomes for students. Instructional practices for all have been identified for improving literacy outcomes across the P-20 system. In addition, state funding has been appropriated to support these specific recommendations to ensure students have strong literacy skills to "Read by Grade Three". These include:

- Additional Instructional Time grants that support districts in providing targeted supports for students who struggle in reading and other literacy skills;
- Intermediate School District Early Literacy Coaching grants to provide direct assistance to school districts and public school academies to address instructional needs for literacy;
- Assessment Reimbursement grants to support districts in the use of benchmarks, screening, and diagnostic tools to help identify specific student needs, so that they can receive targeted support; and
- Professional learning funds that support learning and implementation of research-informed instructional practices for literacy.

HOW YOU CAN ENGAGE YOUR DISTRICT

Several organizations have partnered with the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) to provide a consistent, coherent support infrastructure so all literacy efforts are focused on the same goals. MDE serves in a leadership role on the Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators – General Education Leadership Network Early Literacy Task Force to develop a continuum of "Essential Instructional Practices in Literacy" that span from birth to Grade 12. You can support this collaborative effort in these ways:

Encourage educators in your district to review the instructional practices in literacy available on LiteracyEssentials.org and engage in the learning modules available on the website.

Learn more about Michigan literacy efforts to help build an effective literacy system, which include:

- The responses to Frequently Asked Questions of the "Read by Grade Three" law;
- The Early Literacy Coaching Model to support ISDs and districts to implement research-supported literacy professional learning practices and define the role of an early literacy coach;
- A comprehensive literacy plan called Michigan's Action Plan for Literacy Excellence (MAPLE);
- The Family Engagement Initiative to support educators of all students, including families, in literacy;
- The collaborative effort with the Michigan PreK-12 Literacy Commission as an advisory committee and partner in messaging about the components of the Read by Grade Three legislation with communities and families; and
- Improving the preparation of future teachers of literacy to better serve students by revising preparation standards to ensure effective literacy educators who use differentiated supports and meet the needs of the whole child.

Literacy is a priority of MDE. Supports and guidance for literacy will continue to expand. More resources can be found on [MDE's literacy website](http://www.michigan.gov/earlyliteracy). (www.michigan.gov/earlyliteracy).