



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** February 29, 2024

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

**FROM:** Delsa D. Chapman, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent  
Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports 

**SUBJECT:** The Michigan Department of Education Celebrates  
March is Reading Month

Since 1994, March is Reading Month has been a month-long celebration promoting the importance of reading with learners and their families. This effort directly supports goal 2 of [Michigan's Top 10 Strategic Education Plan](#) to improve early literacy achievement. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) reminds educators and families to be mindful of the philosophy of windows, mirrors, and sliding glass doors when selecting books to engage with students and children throughout March is Reading Month.

Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop was the first to [create the vision](#) of windows, mirrors, and sliding glass doors, and it remains a cornerstone of student engagement in literacy. Dr. Bishop states that **books should be windows into the realities of others, not just imaginary worlds, and books can be mirrors that reflect the lives of readers. Sliding glass doors refer to how readers can walk into a story and become part of the world created by the author.** Dr. Bishop's vision ensures that book selection and engagement prioritize diversity, honor many cultures, and promote empathy.

To assist educators in celebrating reading in March (and all year), MDE has some interactive initiatives to share.

- 1) Throughout March, MDE invites educators to submit their March is Reading Month plans and celebrations through the [Michigan Reads Form](#). MDE will compile the responses received and share them statewide so educators can learn from one another. All submissions will be entered into a drawing to receive special recognition and a commemoration keepsake.

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

PAMELA PUGH – PRESIDENT • ELLEN COGEN LIPTON / TIFFANY D. TILLEY – CO-VICE PRESIDENTS  
JUDITH PRITCHETT – SECRETARY • MARSHALL BULLOCK II – TREASURER  
MITCHELL ROBINSON – NASBE DELEGATE • TOM MCMILLIN • NIKKI SNYDER

- 2) MDE staff members would love to be guest readers in your schools. To request an MDE guest reader, please complete the [Guest Reader Request Form](#). An MDE staff member will contact you to finalize visit details; visits will occur during the remainder of the 2023-24 school year and into the 2024-25 school year.
- 3) In partnership with the Michigan Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports Technical Assistance (MiMTSS TA) Center, MDE invites educators to attend the 2024 Diversity in Literature Symposium: The How and Why of Literacy on March 7, 2024, at the Lansing Center. For additional information and conference details, visit the Literacy Symposium [website](#).
- 4) MDE has additional coordinated literacy efforts below, including lesson ideas, interactive family literacy activities, and diverse reading materials guidance and text suggestions.
  - [Authors of Color List](#)
  - [Diverse Classroom Libraries Guidance](#)
  - [Engaging Multilingual Families](#)
  - [Equity and Family Engagement](#)
  - [Library of Michigan](#)
  - [MDE Equity in Literacy Website](#)
  - [MDE Family Engagement in Early Literacy Resources](#)
  - [Michigan Celebrates Black History Month](#)
  - [Michigan Learning Channel](#)
  - [MISelf in Books - MASL \(mimasl.org\)](#)

For further information about these initiatives, please contact [MDE-EarlyLiteracy@michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-EarlyLiteracy@michigan.gov) and sign up for the MDE ELA List Serve at [michigan.gov/mde](https://michigan.gov/mde).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance  
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Departments