



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** October 18, 2024

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

**FROM:** Delsa D. Chapman, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent  
Division of Assessment, School Improvement, and Systems Support 

**SUBJECT:** K-12 Literacy and Dyslexia Laws (Public Act 146 and Public Act 147)  
Implementation in conjunction with Section 35m Committee for Literacy  
Achievement (Public Act 120)

The Michigan legislature passed, and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed into law on October 10, 2024, [Public Act \(PA\) 146 of 2024](#), and [Public Act 147 of 2024](#), now referred to as the K-12 Literacy and Dyslexia Laws. Additionally, [Section 35m of the State School Aid Act enacted as Public Act 120 of 2024](#) will contribute to strengthening the effectiveness of literacy instruction and improving literacy achievement for learners.

The intent of these laws is to ensure that educators receive the professional development needed to implement instructional strategies aligned with the science of reading, which is proven to increase literacy achievement, and to ensure that students have access to high-quality instructional materials and assessments.

Public Act 146(5) requires that:

"By not later than January 1, 2026, the department shall publish a list of evidence-based tier 1, class-wide elementary reading curricula and materials that are aligned with the science of reading methods that research has shown to improve literacy outcomes and help pupils achieve reading proficiency."

In addition, the statute states in subsection 4:

"By not later than January 1, 2026, the department shall provide a list of approved valid and reliable screening and progress monitoring reading assessments for selection and use by school districts and public-school academies under subsection (1) and, in addition to meeting applicable requirements under subsection (1), identify, within each approved assessment for selection and use by school districts and public school academies under subsection (1), a list of the elements of a reliable and valid universal screening assessment for the purpose of identifying pupils with characteristics of dyslexia

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or difficulties in learning to decode accurately and efficiently that are or are not included in the approved assessment.”

The department is providing you with the following suggestions as you prepare for the implementation of Public Act 146 of 2024:

- Engage in no-cost professional learning aligned to the science of reading research, such as LETRS training provided by grant funds in Section 35a(10) of the state school aid act.
- Speak about Michigan’s literacy initiatives with the current provider(s) of your district’s curriculum tools/resources and assessments.
- Sign up for MDE literacy emails by going to the main MDE webpage, [michigan.gov/mde](https://michigan.gov/mde), scrolling to the bottom and inserting your email in the MDE Email Lists sign-up box.
- Attend upcoming MDE webinars and informational sessions for technical assistance and support regarding literacy best practices, fiscal year 2025 literacy grants, and implementation guidance. The webinars will be announced through the MDE literacy emails.

[Public Act 147 of 2024](#) was also signed by Gov. Whitmer on October 10, 2024. As stated in the Summary as Reported by the House Committee, this law addresses the requirement of teacher preparation programs to include instruction on identifying and addressing dyslexia in students. Under the law, public institutions of higher education with teacher preparation programs that do not currently offer instruction on dyslexia would be required to add it to their curriculum. Please see [Public Act 147 of 2024](#) for a full description of this law.

If you have any questions, please contact [MDE-EarlyLiteracy@michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-EarlyLiteracy@michigan.gov).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance  
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Departments