STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

Supporting the Mandate of LETRS and Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction for All K–5 Educators

WHEREAS literacy is fundamental to every child's academic success, lifelong learning, and future career opportunities;

WHEREAS Michigan's 2025 Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP) results indicate that 42.4% of Michigan's fourth graders are proficient or advanced in reading;

WHEREAS at the urging of the Michigan Department of Education, the Michigan Legislature has invested in LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) training, a research-based professional development program aligned with the Science of Reading that equips educators with the skills to teach reading effectively, and more than 5,000 Michigan educators have completed this rigorous training, with another 7,000 having begun the training;

WHEREAS despite state funding being appropriated over the last four years, LETRS training has not been mandated statewide, which has led to inconsistent participation of Michigan educators and inconsistent access to instruction based on the science of reading for Michigan's students;

WHEREAS, states such as Mississippi and North Carolina have mandated science of reading training for elementary educators, which has contributed to improvements in early literacy proficiency;

WHEREAS, early, explicit, systematic literacy instruction, combined with valid and reliable universal K-3 screening, valid and reliable 4-12 screening as determined necessary, targeted intervention, and coaching improves student outcomes and helps close opportunity gaps;

WHEREAS, PA 146 of 2024 requires these evidenced-based efforts and district-identified literacy coaches to support teachers;

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WHEREAS, family engagement and access to literacy resources further enhance students' reading development and long-term academic achievement;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Michigan State Board of Education:

1. **Urges the State Legislature** to mandate that all current and future K–5 educators complete LETRS training within a reasonable timeframe and to fund this mandate;

2. **Promotes the development** of statewide family literacy initiatives to provide free books and support at home reading; and

3. **Affirms that literacy is a statewide priority essential** to Michigan's educational and economic future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of Michigan and the Michigan Legislature to inform and guide literacy funding and policy decisions.

Resolution passed on September 9, 2025, by a vote of 7 – 1.