

EVERY CHILD READS

Gov. Whitmer SOTS 2026

“When every child reads, Michigan wins. My goals for 2026 include a record investment in literacy, from phonics and PreK for All to teacher training and more before- and after-school support. Let’s keep working together to help every child read and succeed.”

The Problem

In Michigan and across the country, too many students can’t read at grade level. The causes behind our literacy challenges are varied, but the data is clear: our kids need more help. To set every student up for success, we must do more on literacy.

The Plan

Michigan’s literacy plan has a simple name and a clear goal: Every Child Reads. The Governor proposed a \$625 million investment—the largest ever—for literacy in her executive budget recommendation. By expanding access to early learning, using proven methods, and offering extra help both in and out of the classroom, we can help every child reach their full potential.

Literacy starts with high-quality early learning, because the sooner kids start learning early reading skills, the better they become. To set every child up for success, we must continue free PreK for All, so every student can learn and grow in a safe, supportive environment. Funding free, full day preK ensures that our children meet their milestones and arrive at kindergarten ready to thrive.

The Governor also called for bringing proven literacy practices, like phonics, into every Michigan classroom. Adopting effective curriculum statewide and ensuring all teachers have excellent professional learning like LETRS training are the most effective strategies to help students succeed.

Finally, the Governor will propose expanding extra help for kids in classrooms and communities. We must connect students with more tutoring, small group support, and summer, before-, and after-school programing. Every kid deserves a safe, supportive places to learn and grow.

The Progress:

- Signed “Science of Reading” legislation requiring schools to use proven methods like phonics to teach reading. Also requires all kindergarten through third grade students to be screened for dyslexia, identifying kids who need extra help.
- Made preK free for every four-year-old, saving parents \$14,000 a year.
- Trained nearly 6,200 educators in LETRS, a proven, effective method to improve reading instruction, with a goal of training all reading teachers statewide.
- Signed new, bipartisan laws limiting phone use during class to reduce distractions and improve mental health.
- Tripled the number of literacy coaches, professionals who help teachers improve the way they teach kids how to read.
- Delivered free breakfast and lunch to all 1.4 million public school students, saving parents almost \$1,000 per kid, per year and improving focus in class.



STATE OF MICHIGAN

The Potential

Literacy is an individual victory with massive benefits for everyone. A Michigan where every child reads is more prosperous, innovative, engaged, and equal. Together, we can set every kid up for the bright future they deserve.

