

Section 35a Report

Thursday, December 2, 2021



State Strategic Education Plan Goals

1. Expand early childhood learning opportunities
- 2. Improve early literacy achievement**
3. Improve the health, safety, and wellness of students
4. Expand secondary learning opportunities for students
5. Increase the percentage of students who graduate from high school
6. Increase the percentage of adults with a post-secondary credential
7. Increase the numbers of certified teachers in areas of shortage
8. Provide adequate and equitable school funding



M-STEP percent proficient 3rd Grade ELA



	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21
All Students	44.4%	45.1%	*	42.8%

* No state summative test administration per federal waiver

Data Source: MI School Data

NAEP percent proficient 4th Grade Reading



	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19
All Students	28.6%	*	31.8%	*	31.6%
National Ranking	41	*	35	*	32

* No testing conducted given 2-year cycle. NCES did not test in spring 2021 given concerns about longitudinal comparability.

Data Source: [National Center for Education Statistics](#)

Spring 2022 data anticipated in fall 2022

Goal 2: Efforts to Boost Literacy

- Literacy Essentials
- Diversity in Literature
- Educator Resources
- Michigan Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant: 5 High-Poverty Districts
- Accelerated Learning
- Dyslexia Guidance



Literacy Essentials

An MAISA-MDE partnership, the literacy essentials provide a foundation of research-based instructional practices for our teachers, and for our reading coaches to support the early literacy practices of our teachers.



Diversity in Literacy

- Most of our children can read technically, but once they've "broken the code," in the absence of interest, many don't read much.
- We must work actively to **engage** our children in literacy. We can't assume that they will want to read what we read when we were coming up.
- **Diverse classroom libraries** are critical to engagement, which itself is critical to more reading, more vocabulary development, more knowledge development, and greater comprehension of other text.



Diversity in Literacy

- Equity in Literacy Guidance
- Authors of Color and Their Great Works
- Diversity in Literacy conference and subsequent webinars
- Michigan Association For Media In Education (MAME) and Library of Michigan Partnerships



Educator Resources

- MDE has provided free and low-cost resources to teachers to improve literacy learning for all students regardless of mode of instruction.
- Resources are available for use by educators and families.
- Resources include but are not limited to:
 - Family engagement activities
 - Learning games
 - Pre-K – grade 12 activities
 - Supporting summer and out-of-school learning



Federal Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant

- MDE was awarded nearly \$16M in federal funds for a five-year period to guide local districts in the development of a local comprehensive literacy plan from birth to grade 12.
- Five districts are working directly with the department in this effort.
 - Benton Harbor
 - Pontiac
 - Muskegon Heights
 - Detroit
 - Flint



Accelerated Learning

- Accelerated learning keeps students moving forward on their intended grade-level trajectories by preparing them for success in current grade-level content.
 - Focuses on teaching what must be learned, at a given level, instead of trying to teach everything that a student did not learn in a previous grade or grades.
 - Requires teachers to identify crucial content they need to teach, and students need to learn, so students can access current grade-level material.



Accelerated Learning

- As part of MDE's Accelerated Learning supports to districts, there has been a focus on early literacy supports for teachers and district staff.
- MDE provides Michigan educators with:
 - Guidance documents
 - State and national presenters for literacy learning through webinar series
 - Essential skills for literacy standards and content



Dyslexia Guidance

- MDE is developing guidance for educators to improve literacy outcomes for all learners, including those exhibiting characteristics of dyslexia.
- National and state experts in the field of dyslexia will review the guidance and support the creation of resources to help local districts in serving all students.
- Efforts will provide educators with access to evidence-based instructional strategies and methods to intensify literacy instruction.
- MDE has been working with bill sponsors on a bipartisan dyslexia bill package - Senate Bills 380 through 383.



Initiatives Funded through Section 35a

- The legislature has authorized \$60.4 million in funding programs that may support nearly 450,000 students.
 - Intended to ensure Michigan will be a Top 10 state in grade 4 NAEP reading proficiency by 2025.
- Some of the programs funded under this section include:
 - Professional learning [35a(2), 35a(3), 35a(5), 35a(7), 35a(9)]
 - Additional instructional time [35a(5)]
 - Intermediate school district (ISD) early literacy coaches [35a(4)]
 - Supporting initiatives to improve literacy for all learners [Sections of 35a, 35b, 35d, 35e, 35f]



Professional Learning

- Funds from Section 35a provide districts with the ability to select and implement professional learning for staff to address early literacy.
- 155 districts used funds to select items from the research-based professional learning list (Section 35a(2)).
- 238 districts used funds for administering Michigan Department of Education (MDE) approved screening and diagnostic tools and data interpretation training (Section 35a(3)).
- All regional literacy coaches, along with some teachers and administrators, were trained in the use of the Early Literacy Essentials (Section 35a(7)).
- Funds were also used to create a state-wide literacy leadership network (Section 35a(7)).



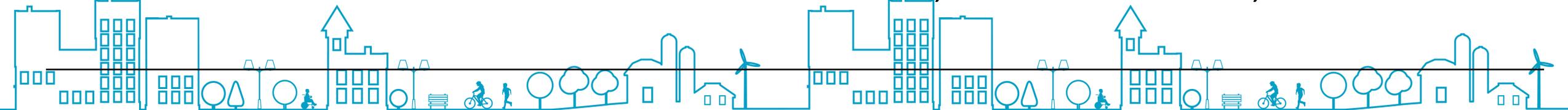
Additional Instruction Time

- For the 2020-21 school year, 706 districts applied for and received funding associated with Section 35a(5) to provide pre-K to grade 12 students with additional instructional time in literacy before, during, or after school, or in summer.
- Funds can be used for multiple purposes, including staffing costs, assessment costs, technology, reading materials, and professional development (PD).



Additional Instructional Time Impact

Category of Service	Number of pre-K learners served	Number of K to grade 3 learners served	Number of grade 4-12 learners served
Before School	0	6,474	155
During School	2,429	133,921	22,744
After School	83	9,043	2,474
Summer School	1,404	19,830	4,528
Other Allowable Activities	1,286	18,419	39,944
Read at Home Plan	957	35,076	4,200



ISD Early Literacy Coaches

- 280 FTEs were funded for the 2020-21 school year to provide regional early literacy coaches at the ISD level.
- All ISDs have at least one early literacy coach available to assist teachers to implement instructional strategies for students in pre-K – grade 3.
- A state-wide network assists early literacy coaches with sharing best practices for working with teachers, students, and staff at local districts.



Other Funded Initiatives

Section 35 also includes other initiatives and organizations to support literacy efforts in schools and communities

- Michigan Education Corps
- Children's Choice Initiative
- Dyslexia Orton Gillingham
- Boys and Girls Club
- Chaldean Community Foundation
- Imagine Learning



Other Research-Based Initiatives that Improve Literacy

- Expansion of GSRP pre-school
- Lower class sizes in early elementary, when reading skills are being taught
- Parent and family literacy initiatives



In support of and on behalf of children,
thank you for your leadership and
partnership as we work together to build
better schools and school experiences for
children.

