



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 28, 2021

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: Section 35a(10) LETRS Training Grant Opportunity for Pre-K to Grade 3 Educators

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is announcing the Section 35a(10) Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) training grant for Pre-K to grade 3 educators. This grant is included in section 35a of the state school aid act enacted under [Public Act 48 of 2021](#). This training grant supports the second guiding principle and the second goal of [Michigan's Top 10 Strategic Education Plan](#).

Developed by Dr. Louisa Moats and leaders in the field of literacy, LETRS teaches the skills needed to master the foundations and fundamentals of reading and writing instruction—phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, and written language.

LETRS further develops educators' language and literacy expertise in understanding why reading is complex, the source of reading difficulties, and how to successfully teach all students, including those with significant and persistent literacy-related needs. The information in each LETRS unit allows teachers to more easily discern effective versus ineffective literacy practices. It provides a depth of understanding that empowers teachers to feel confident in accelerating literacy outcomes.

This grant opportunity is open to interested Pre-K to grade 3 teachers, with priority given to Pre-K, kindergarten, and grade 1 teachers.

Teacher participation is voluntary, but space is limited. The deadline to apply to participate in the first cohort is December 10, 2021, at 5 p.m. ET, and the course begins in January 2022. Enrollment for additional cohorts will remain open until all allocated grant funds are expended.

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To learn more about LETRS, educators are invited to attend the informational webinar on November 3, 2021, from 4:00–5:00 p.m. ET. To attend this informational webinar, use the [Zoom link](#) on the day of the webinar.

Additional information, including LETRS resources, cohorts and training dates, and the Google registration form, can be found by visiting www.Lexialearning.com/Michigan-letrs or the MDE [website](#).

If you have questions regarding this communication or the grant, please contact MDE-LETRS@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors