



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING




GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 26, 2021

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors
Michigan Pre-K-12 Educators

FROM: Michael F. Rice, Ph.D., State Superintendent 
Sheila A. Alles, Chief Deputy Superintendent 
Randy Riley, State Librarian 

SUBJECT: Celebrating Authors of Color and Their Works of Literature

February is a month-long celebration of African American history. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and the Library of Michigan provided weekly [calendars](#) celebrating African American authors and their noted literacy works. These works reflected nominations from educators across the state. The set of weekly calendars remain available on MDE's website. In addition to the weekly calendars and to continue the celebration, MDE is pleased to share the [Celebrating Authors of Color and Their Works of Literature](#) document.

The document includes a list of literature that is provided as a resource for educators to explore. We know that it is important for students to be engaged in reading, and that engagement is increased when students can see themselves, and others, in the literature used for teaching and made available for individual reading. The literature in this document is one important resource that educators can use to increase the diversity of text available to students.

This list will grow and expand as it is updated. The authors and their selected works are categorized by the level of reading material. The list includes the author's name, author highlights and book awards, and sample titles by the author.

The Celebrating Authors of Color and Their Works of Literature document is available on the MDE Literacy [website](#). For further information, please contact MDE-EarlyLiteracy@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors

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