



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 29, 2021

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: William A. Pearson, Ed.D., Interim Deputy Superintendent
Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports *WAP*

SUBJECT: Equity in Literacy Guidance Document

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is releasing its Equity in Literacy [guidance document](#). This resource advises school districts on the use of evidence-based strategies, initiatives, and programs to improve literacy achievement and access to literacy, with special attention to reducing class, racial, and ethnic disparities.

The guidance document describes research-based literacy instruction and addresses practices that support access to high-quality literacy learning for all Michigan students. The document is divided into five sections:

1. Practices for creating engaging literacy learning environments
2. The daily involvement of students in literacy
3. The scientific or technical aspects of literacy
4. The role of family engagement
5. Resources to support equity in literacy

An appendix is included that offers recommendations of books by authors of color for use during literacy instruction. This list supports MDE's efforts to offer students an opportunity to engage in literature in which they see themselves (mirrors) and others (windows) in their reading, as presented in the work of Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop. In this short YouTube [video](#), Dr. Bishop describes mirrors, windows, and sliding glass doors.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

CASANDRA E. ULBRICH – PRESIDENT • PAMELA PUGH – VICE PRESIDENT
TIFFANY D. TILLEY – SECRETARY • TOM MCMILLIN – TREASURER
JUDITH PRITCHETT – NASBE DELEGATE • ELLEN COGEN LIPTON
NIKKI SNYDER • JASON STRAYHORN

608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
www.michigan.gov/mde • 833-633-5788

Page 2
January 29, 2021

The Equity in Literacy guidance will be a living document. The guidance and resources, including the book recommendations, will be updated based on new research and evolving best practices. The Equity in Literacy document and resources are available on the [Equity in Literacy website](#).

For more information, please contact mde-earlyliteracy@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors