



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

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GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 15, 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: Read by Grade Three Educator Survey

In 2016, the Michigan legislature passed the Read by Grade Three (RGB3) law ([MCL 380.1280f](#)). Subsequently, the state board of education and the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) requested that the Education Policy Innovation Collaborative (EPIC) at Michigan State University work in partnership with MDE and the state's Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) to engage in a research study of the law. The purpose of this research is to understand the law's effects on student achievement and attainment and how the law is being implemented in schools and districts across the state.

Educator voice is critical to understanding the implementation of the RGB3 law in Michigan. EPIC sent surveys to all K-5 teachers and principals, district superintendents, and early literacy coaches statewide in late March to ask about their perspectives on the law. Superintendents and principals should have received additional communication from EPIC and were asked to pass messages along to their K-5 teachers.

MDE encourages all K-5 teachers and principals, superintendents, and literacy coaches to participate. As work continues on Michigan's Top 10 strategic education plan to improve early literacy in Michigan, educator perspectives are critically important to help Michigan achieve this goal.

A few weeks ago, EPIC published its [first report](#) from the study that relied heavily upon last year's survey results. Results from the report can help inform ongoing efforts to improve early literacy in Michigan.

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We know that educators are incredibly busy—always, and especially now during the pandemic. The survey will take approximately 25 minutes and educators can receive five state continuing education clock hours (SCECHs) for completing the survey. Individual responses to the survey will be kept strictly confidential. All responses will be summarized so that no individual or school can be identified. The findings from this survey will be used to produce reports to Michigan policymakers and practitioners to develop policy briefs, journal articles, and conference presentations.

This is the second of four educator surveys that are part of a five-year study of the RGB3 law. The study is funded by grants from the U.S. Department of Education Institute for Education Sciences and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. EPIC will conduct educator surveys each year for the first four years of the project. Additionally, EPIC will conduct classroom observations and interviews as well as examine the impact of RGB3 on student outcomes.

If you have questions about the RGB3 research or the survey, please contact EPIC managing director Emily Mohr at emohr@msu.edu.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors