

DETROIT

NATIVE SUN

Michigan school districts set to offer \$10M in innovative literacy initiative

LANSING - One-hundred and fifteen traditional public school districts, charter schools, and intermediate school districts in the state have successfully completed applications to be considered for state grant dollars that will fund innovation in teaching literacy, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) announced.

MDE will award funding through the competitive Reading Excellence and Advancing District (READ) Innovation Grant.

As part of the State School Aid Act for fiscal year 2025, the legislature designated \$10 million in Section 35n funds for MDE to provide startup money to eligible school districts to deploy innovative literacy initiatives that make a positive impact on student literacy rates.

"We appreciate the significant interest that local districts have in innovation in literacy," State Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice said. "The READ Innovation Grant supports Goal 2 of Michigan's Top 10 Strategic Education Plan, to improve early literacy achievement."

Eligible applicants will participate in a series of competitions for three rounds of funding during this three-year grant, which will culminate in a \$500,000 award for one district in each competition category. Competition categories are elementary and secondary innovations.

Applications submitted for the first round of funding included a description of the research-based literacy innovation aligned to the science of reading. A minimum of 36 of the 115 applicants will receive up to \$187,500 to implement their innovation during the 2025-26 school year. Funded applicants will be notified in September.

Districts will report progress and six will be selected as finalists. The finalists will receive \$375,000 in additional funding during the 2026-27 school year to expand their innovations.

During the summer of 2027, the six finalists will report progress and two that are determined to have made the greatest impact on student achievement will receive \$500,000 as incentive money.

This \$10 million in Section 35n funding is in addition to \$87 million in Section 35m funding passed by the state legislature and signed by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to fund research-based, high quality instructional materials for Michigan's students in fiscal year 2025. Sixty-four percent of Michigan districts and ISDs applied for Section 35m grant funding, an indication of a significant need for and interest in research-based materials and resources that effect student literacy achievement.

In its 2025 Legislative Priorities Letter and throughout the year, MDE encouraged Michigan lawmakers to include and increase funding for Section 35m in the next State School Aid budget to support local districts and ISDs as they implement Public Act 146 of 2024, a generational new literacy/dyslexia law that requires districts to use research-based, science of reading materials, to screen for characteristics of dyslexia in children.

"Additional Section 35m funding from the state legislature this year would help more districts get an early start on implementation of this transformative new state literacy/dyslexia law," Dr. Rice said.

7 things doctors wish for back-to-school season



(StatePoint) As you prepare children to return to the classroom this fall, the American Medical Association (AMA) has seven tips to help your family have a healthy school year.

"As you purchase school supplies and prepare the students in your family for academic success, you can take concrete steps that prioritize physical and mental health, too," said AMA President Bobby Mukkamala, M.D. "A healthy start can set the tone for a strong, successful year ahead."

1. Ultra-processed foods are associated with health risks. Many busy families rely on ultra-processed foods due to their convenience. However, consuming these foods regularly increases the risk of health complications, including cardiovascular disease, certain cancers, obesity and type 2 diabetes. Read nutrition labels carefully with attention to sodium, saturated fat and added sugar, shop the perimeter of the grocery store where fresh, whole foods tend to be located, and prepare meals that prioritize whole foods.

2. Eating disorders are misunderstood. This silent epidemic affects people of all ages and backgrounds, striking at the core of their physical and mental well-being. Despite its widespread impact, the gravity of eating disorders often remains private, leaving many to battle the condition silently. If you believe

your child or teenager has an eating disorder, their physician can direct you to resources.

3. Ensure your vaccinations are up to date. Vaccinations help protect you and your family against severe disease and disability, and save millions of lives each year. Check with your physician during the back-to-school season to ensure everyone in the family is up to date on vaccinations. When respiratory virus season starts later in the fall, get up to date on the influenza vaccine.

4. Norovirus is very contagious, but preventable. It seems everyone has experienced the sudden turn of the stomach, causing a mad rush to the bathroom due to vomiting, diarrhea or both. Remaining near the bathroom may be the only plan for the next day or two. The most likely culprit is norovirus, and it can happen to anyone. When buying school supplies, stock up on cleaning supplies as well so you can keep frequently touched surfaces sanitized. Model good hand-washing habits for your children. Keep children with norovirus symptoms home from school for at least 2 days (48 hours) after symptoms stop.

5. Too much screen time is bad for health. People are on their devices more than ever before. But too much screen time can have negative mental and physical health effects and increase feelings of loneliness. The start of a new school year is a good time to replace screen time with other activities, such as after school clubs and sports, playdates, quality family time and sleep.

6. Eye health is essential. Don't take eye health for granted. Fall is a good time for an ophthalmologist checkup. If your tween or teen wears contacts, be sure that they wash their lenses and lens case and take their lenses off at night.

7. Sleep is important for overall health. From school stress to illnesses, many factors can interfere with a good night's sleep. Instituting a consistent sleep routine for the entire family is a good start. For teens, 8-10 hours of sleep is recommended, and children aged 6-12 should be getting 9-12 hours of sleep.

ENROLL NOW FOR THE 2025/26 SCHOOL YEAR



HERE'S WHY YOU SHOULD MAKE HAZEL PARK SCHOOLS YOUR HOME

- A safe, secure, nurturing, and innovative learning environment for all students.
- Our High School graduation rate exceeds the state average.
- Title contending athletic programs each year.
- Numerous Career Technical Education (CTE) offerings at the High School.
- Award-winning Music and Fine Arts Programming.
- Promise Zone & College Access Network.
- Viking Virtual Academy (9th-12th).
- Robotics & Coding opportunities.
- K-12 STEAM Curriculum.
- Small student/teacher ratios.
- No Pay-To-Play fees.
- 1:1 iPads or Chromebooks.
- Full-day preschool, if eligible.
- Free breakfast and lunch.
- Early Fives.
- Daily safe and sanitary cleaning.
- Spacious classrooms.

EARLY MIDDLE COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY

WEBSTER

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

PRESCHOOL ACADEMY

2, 3 & 4 YEAR OLD TUITION-BASED

FULL DAY PRESCHOOL

\$625/MONTH

DHHS ACCEPTED

FREE GSRP

FOR THOSE THAT QUALIFY

4 YEAR OLD PRESCHOOL

MONDAY-FRIDAY

FREE TRANSPORTATION

FIREFIGHTER ACADEMY

OUR HIGH SCHOOL IS THE ONLY SCHOOL IN OAKLAND COUNTY TO OFFER THIS PARTNERSHIP WITH OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

HAZEL PARK PROMISE

WE ARE TOMORROW BEGINS TODAY!

Readiness Program

QR CODE

HP

HAZEL PARK SCHOOLS

To Enroll Scan the QR Code

Or Call 248-658-5205

Or Visit [www.enrollHPS.com](http://www.enrollHPS.com)