

# House Appropriations Subcommittee on School Aid and the Michigan Department of Education

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

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# Eight Goals – Michigan's Top 10 Strategic Education Plan

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1. Expand early childhood learning opportunities
- 2. Improve early literacy achievement**
3. Improve the health, safety, and wellness of all learners
4. Expand secondary learning opportunities for all students
5. Increase the percentage of all students who graduate from high school
6. Increase the percentage of adults with a post-secondary credential
7. Increase the numbers of certified teachers in areas of shortage
8. Provide adequate and equitable school funding



# Agenda

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- Overview of Section 35m
  - Status of Committee for Literacy Achievement
  - Summary Timeline
- Overview of Other Relevant Laws
  - Section 35n
  - Public Act 146
  - Public Act 147
- Recommendations

# Components of Teaching Reading

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1. Resources: Materials and Funding
2. Knowledge: Training, Coaching, and Support

# Section 35m

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- \$87 million *formula* grant
- Requires the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) to establish a Committee for Literacy Achievement (CLA) that will critically evaluate:
  - Literacy series and materials
  - Literacy professional development
  - Literacy tools or services
- The CLA will create and maintain a rankings list of literacy items
- The CLA will inform the criteria for Section 35n—READ Innovation Competition

# Committee for Literacy Achievement

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## Committee Membership Includes:

- Representatives of early childhood educators and institutions of higher education
- Representatives who have expertise in literacy instruction, research, and program evaluation

# 35m District/LEA Application Process

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\$87 million **formula** grant

When the application becomes available, Districts will:

- Review the ranking lists of interest (literacy series or materials, professional development, tools, and services)
- Select literacy series or materials, professional development, tools, and services from the list
- Apply for funding based on the selected items from the ranking lists

Literacy series or materials, professional development, tools, and services purchased after October 1, 2024, may be eligible for funding.

# 35m Timeline

<b>November-December 2024</b>	<b>Committee for Literacy Achievement member application process</b>
<b>January-May 2025</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>CLA studied tools/resources</b></li><li>• <b>Vendor webinars Re: criteria</b></li><li>• <b>Vendor submitted proposals</b></li><li>• <b>CLA evaluated the submissions</b></li></ul>
<b>June 2025</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>List published and application open</b></li><li>• <b>Webinars Re: grant application process</b></li><li>• <b>LEAs apply for funding</b></li></ul>
<b>August-September 2025</b>	<b>MDE reviews and approves applications</b>
<b>October 2025</b>	<b>MDE allocates funding</b>

# Section 35n

## The Reading Excellence And Advancing District (READ) Innovation Competition

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- \$10 million **competitive** grant
- Startup money to eligible districts to develop and deploy innovative literacy initiatives that make a positive impact on student literacy rates
- Incentive money to districts determined to have demonstrated the greatest impact
- Includes a series of reporting and subsequent rounds of competition for a final \$500K award for one winning district for each competitive category
- Districts will apply to develop and deploy literacy initiatives grounded in the science of reading

# What is the Science of Reading?

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- A body of **research** in developmental psychology, educational psychology, cognitive science, and cognitive neuroscience from the past 50+ years that provides further insight into **how we learn to read**
- Gold standard studies that reveal **how the brain becomes proficient with language**
- Identifies specific instructional practices that are the **most effective** for developing strong readers and writers

# Section 35n

## District/LEA Application Process

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- Once the grant becomes available, districts may apply for funding
- Report progress to be considered for further competition
- Develop a presentation if selected as a finalist

# PA 146/147

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Components of the law are focused on quality literacy series and instructional materials, professional development, tools, and services that are aligned with the science of reading to improve literacy outcomes

PA 146 is focused on in-service teachers

PA 147 is focused on pre-service teachers (Institutions of Higher Education)

# PA 146/147 (cont.)

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- PA 146/147 builds upon Ready by Grade Three in the following ways:
  - Continues to include districts choosing reliable and valid assessments
  - Provides a unique layer of professional learning and coaching support for teachers
- Professional learning topics include:
  - Dyslexia expertise
  - Structured literacy

# Recommendations

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1. Time (180-9-7-15) 149/29.8/7.5
2. Mandatory Language Essentials for Teacher of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) Training
3. More funding for 35m

Thank you!