



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT

August 2014

To all Michigan Public Libraries, Head Start Programs, Great Start Readiness Programs, and Public and Private Schools serving grades K-2:

Welcome to the Michigan Reads! One-State, One-Children's Book program presented by the Library of Michigan. The featured book for 2014 is *Acoustic Rooster and His Barnyard Band*, written by Kwame Alexander and illustrated by Tim Bowers. **We encourage the reading of *Acoustic Rooster and His Barnyard Band* with children statewide during the months of September and October to encourage early and family literacy in your community.**

The Library of Michigan is pleased to provide this kit of 2014 Michigan Reads! materials to enable you to share the book and program activities with infants, toddlers, preschoolers and K-2 school-aged children. **If you are in a school, Head Start program or Great Start Readiness program, please coordinate the sharing of these resources among classrooms and the library.** Use the enclosed materials to promote the enjoyment of reading to children and with children to the families of your students or patrons. A curriculum crosswalk is available for the school-age activities at www.michigan.gov/michiganreads.

In our 2014 book, Acoustic Rooster learns about music, teamwork and sportsmanship. After realizing he can't win the barnyard talent contest as a solo act with such fierce competition, a rooster with a love for jazz looks to help from other animals. A quartet with an unbelievable sound is created, with their ability to work together cleverly captured in this book with rhyming text, references to key American musicians, and vivid illustrations.

The 2014 Michigan Reads! program will be kicked off on Monday, September 8, 2014, in conjunction with International Literacy Day. Local libraries and schools will be reading *Acoustic Rooster and His Barnyard Band* aloud that day to children all over the state. We are promoting Michigan Reads! programming in libraries and classrooms throughout September and October. Author Kwame Alexander and illustrator Tim Bowers will tour the state, presenting special Michigan Reads! programs at selected Michigan libraries and schools. The schedule is at www.michigan.gov/michiganreads.

LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN

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The contents of this kit are:

- A hardcover copy of *Acoustic Rooster and His Barnyard Band* (by Kwame Alexander; illustrated by Tim Bowers; published by Sleeping Bear Press);
- A Programming and Resource Guide produced specifically for Michigan Reads!;
- Bookmarks providing early literacy tips for parents and caregivers;
- Stickers to give to children as they participate; and
- A poster to promote the program at your library or classroom on which children can write their name after they listen to or read the story.

Program materials and other resources for librarians, teachers, parents and caregivers are also available on the Michigan Reads! website at www.michigan.gov/michiganreads. These include reading lists, developmental guidelines, a curriculum crosswalk for the K-2 activities, and a promotions toolkit, among many other things.

Finally, this kit includes a reminder for our program survey. Your feedback on the number of programs you have and how many children participate is very important to us. **We strongly encourage your participation in this survey, which includes verifying your contact information and mailing address so we can share Michigan Reads! materials next year.**

Michigan Reads! began in 2004 as a new approach to the popular community-wide reading programs. Michigan Reads! is a unique “one book” program in that it seeks to boost early-childhood literacy by featuring a book geared specifically towards young children. The program promotes the value and benefits of reading early and often to children, encourages family bonding through reading, and increases awareness and usage of Michigan’s public and school libraries as excellent resources for learning.

The Michigan Reads program is made possible in part by grant funds from the [U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) (IMLS) administered by the State of Michigan through the Library of Michigan and the generous support of Target. Additional support comes from the Library of Michigan Foundation and Sleeping Bear Press.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy Riley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Randy Riley
State Librarian