



| Literacy Support Network Hub Newsletter –April 2022

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION | OFFICE OF GREAT START | APRIL 2022

Welcome!

This newsletter is written for the 10 Preschool Development Grant (PDG) Hubs across Michigan. The B-5 Literacy Support Network Hubs were established to support communities across Michigan so that children, families, and educators can have equitable access to materials, training, and other supports for the development of literacy. Read more about the B-5 Literacy Support Network Hubs from [Michigan’s Literacy Scan Research Report](#).

In this newsletter you will find resources, events, upcoming meetings, reminders of important dates related to hub activity for educators, families, and providers. Brief passages highlighting the excellent work happening across the Hubs to improve early literacy for children age birth-5 around Michigan will also be included.



The [Library of Michigan](#) is Michigan’s state-run library that works to support libraries across the state.

How it relates to Hub activity?

Libraries are required Hub partners, how are local libraries in your hub? What resources do your libraries need to serve families and improve literacy for children Birth to age 5?

Check out: Library of Michigan’s [Ready to Read Michigan](#) program is designed to support public library staff to model early literacy skill development to families with young children.

Additional resources below.



[WIDA](#) provides language development resources to multilingual learners.

How does WIDA relate to Hub activity?

A priority of the Hubs is to provide equitable access to early literacy resources, including to multi-lingual families with children age B-5?

Check out: [Multilingual Learners Webpage](#) for resources to support multilingual learners, like the [Promising Practices Implementation Kit](#) to learn how Early Care and Education professionals can support multilingual children and families.

WIDA training resource below.





LETRS Training Grant Opportunity for Pre-K to Grade 3 Educators

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is sharing a professional learning opportunity from section 35a(10) for Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) training grant. This grant is included in section 35a of the state school aid act enacted under Public Act 48 of 2021. This training grant supports the second guiding principle and the second goal of Michigan's Top 10 Strategic Education Plan.

During LETRS training, educators will explore the science of reading and experience deep learning around language acquisition and evidence-based reading instruction to accelerate learning outcomes. All PreK-Grade 3 educators employed by a public school district in Michigan are encouraged to register. Priority will be given to Pre-K-1 teachers. Don't miss this free opportunity!

PreK educators who are employed by a public school district or is paid with state funds (GSRP) are eligible to participate. [Registration](#) for Cohort 3 opened January 29th. The deadline to apply is August 5th (unless all available spots are filled before that date) with a start date of September 2022. For more information, including the [frequently asked questions \(FAQs\) document](#) and the [informational webinar recording](#), please visit the [Lexia Learning Michigan LETRS website](#). If you have questions, please send an email to MDE-LETRS@michigan.gov.



Additional resources to support early literacy:

- **[Michigan eLibrary \(MeL\)](#)**: a state-wide service of the Library of Michigan that provides all Michigan residence with free access to online full-text books and library materials, including early literacy resources for [families and kids](#)!
- **[Michigan Library Association](#)**: a collaborative network of libraries, library professionals, and supports to promote libraries in Michigan. How can your local libraries get involved?
- **[Storyline Online](#)**: a non-profit platform for caregivers and educators to access free virtual read alouds for children.
- **[MI Kids Matter](#)**: a community for caregivers that provides information, resources, and programs to support development of children age birth to 5 years.



Interested in WIDA Early Years eLearning? A free online professional learning course to support multilingual children in early care and education (ECE) settings. This training is intended for ECE professionals, pre-service and in-service teachers, teacher educators, practitioners, coaches, trainers, and administrators.

Training credit available.

Courses include:

- Dual Language Learners and their Families
- Dual Language Learners with Disabilities
- Making connections (useful when planning instruction for multilingual children)
- Scaffolding Language Learning
- Promising Practices
- Are We Ready? What K-12 Educators Can Do to Support Young Multilingual Children



WIDATM

Hub Highlights



Hub 4: The second One County One Book (OCOB) was just launched in Kent County! OCOB is a county-wide campaign that encourages the entire community to read to young children.

The first launch was almost two years ago during the start of COVID. The selected book was *The Gruffalo*. After the book and tool kits were distributed, a watch party of the First Lady Michelle Obama reading *The Gruffalo* live, was hosted for the community!

This year, the book, *The Caring Me I Want to Be* was chosen because of the rhyming, diverse characters, the emotion vocabulary introduced, the included prompts for brainstorming of emotions, and opportunity for children to problem solve and connect the text to real life situations.



Kent County adopted the [Success Basics](#) which are 5 simple messages that parents can do with their children that is evidenced based with will lead to greater outcomes in life.

The initiative has distributed nearly 9000 Books, 9000 Reading Strategy Kits, 9000 Calendars with activities for families and nearly 7000 digital parent coaches.

Community partners (i.e., Head Start For Kent County, Great Start Readiness Program, Early Learning Neighbourhood Collaborative, Grand Rapids Public Library, Kent District Library, Great Start To Quality, Grand Rapids Children's Museum and many more) were essential in the distribution of the books.

See [Ready4K](#) for more information on accessible, evidence-based, equitable tools to engage with caregivers around early literacy development



Hub 6 has been working hard sorting books for equitable distribution throughout their counties.



That is a lot of books! Great work team!



"This campaign is about more than book – it is our commitment to empower families with tools and help them make a difference" - OCOB (Kent County)

Essential Instructional Practices in Early Literacy

Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators (MAISA) developed a small set of research-supported instructional practices called the Essential Instructional Practices in Early Literacy for prekindergarten and grades K-3 to support student early literacy development. **All educators in Michigan have Free access to [modules](#) on the prekindergarten and K-3 Essential Instructional Practices in Early Literacy.** The modules were designed in partnership with Michigan Virtual to support the professional development of educators in areas of literacy instruction through the presentation and video presented in the modules. For more information, please see the [Guide to Michigan's Free Online Professional Learning Materials on Research-Supported Practices for Developing Foundational Skills in Literacy](#) and visit the [Literacy Essentials Webpage](#).



Hub Highlights



- ▶ As your hub begins building relationships within your communities, we want to highlight your creativity and the exciting work you are doing! If you share a photo, please make sure any persons in the photo are okay with having the image shared.

Who is part of a Hub?



- ▶ All community partners (e.g., schools, libraries, great start collaboratives, resource centers, etc.) who are working to improve literacy for children age birth to five years old. Below is a map of the Michigan prosperity regions that outlines the 10 Literacy Support Network Hubs across Michigan. See the hub [contacts](#) to connect with your hub.

We want to hear from you!

What other resources, events, or community partners would your Hub like to see highlighted in this newsletter? Contact us to let us know!

Do you know a community partner who would like to receive this newsletter? Email the contact below to be added to the listserv.



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