



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** April 29, 2020

**TO:** Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents  
Public School Academy Directors

**FROM:** Venessa A. Keesler, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent   
Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports

**SUBJECT:** Read by Grade Three Law Update

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Governor Whitmer's [Executive Order 2020-35 \(COVID-19\)](#), specifically Section IX(C), strict compliance with rules and procedures around [MCL 380.1280f\(5\)](#) is temporarily suspended. This compiled law is best known as the Read by Grade Three Law. Section IX(C) of Executive Order 2020-35 relieves a district of the obligations imposed for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year to retain a pupil in grade three. The Read by Grade Three law has as its foundation state testing, which is not taking place this spring.

Local school districts are to continue implementing all other components of the law. This includes the implementation of individual reading improvement plans; monitoring of student progress; providing appropriate interventions; and supporting all students to build their literacy skills. MDE understands that this effort looks different now than in a traditional setting, but districts are encouraged to maintain these services and address them in their continuity of learning plans, as approved by their local intermediate school district or charter school authorizer.

For additional questions and support regarding the Read by Grade Three law, please contact the Michigan Department of Education at [mde-earlyliteracy@michigan.gov](mailto:mde-earlyliteracy@michigan.gov).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

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