



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 5, 2018

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: April 2018 is School Library Month in Michigan

In recognition of the critical role that school libraries and school librarians play in promoting academic achievement, positive school climate, information and digital literacy, and access to print and digital resources for all students, Governor Rick Snyder has proclaimed April 2018 as [School Library Month in Michigan](#). The proclamation emphasizes that "effective school library programs staffed by certified school librarians/library media specialists are integral to a quality educational program and have a high impact on increasing student achievement," which the Michigan State Board of Education also recognized in its October 14, 2014, [Statement on School Libraries](#).

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) recognizes not only the strong positive impact that school libraries staffed by certified school librarians have on children's achievement and lifelong learning, but also the fact that Michigan children's access to a school library and certified school librarian has declined over the course of the past decade to the point where Michigan's ratio of students to certified school librarian ranks 47th in the country. In order to become a Top 10 education state in ten years, we must expand Michigan children's access to school libraries staffed or supported by certified school librarians.

To support school districts in building school library programs and properly staffing them, the MDE has refined its [Library Media Placements Quick Sheet](#) to provide guidance on the essential instructional duties a certified school librarian is uniquely qualified to carry out in school libraries, as well as transitional staffing solutions for schools currently without access to a certified school librarian. Under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), schools may utilize Title I and Title IVA funds for "developing effective school library programs to provide students an opportunity to develop digital literacy skills and improve academic achievement," as well as Title IIA

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funds to support professional learning for school librarians and teachers seeking to add a Library Media (ND) endorsement on their teaching certificates.

As part of Michigan's [Top 10 in 10 Years](#) strategic plan, the MDE is dedicated to ensuring that "all students have access to libraries and media centers within their school, district, and/or community" and "that such resources are appropriately staffed to ensure system integrity." The MDE is committed to measuring progress toward this goal on the Parent Dashboard for School Transparency, and Michigan's ESSA implementation plan includes "Access to a Librarian/Media Specialist" as part of the ESSA-required "School Quality/Student Success" accountability indicator for all schools without 11th and/or 12th grades.

For questions regarding Library Media placements and school library programming, please contact Leah Breen, Director of the Office of Educator Workforce, at BreenL1@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance