

*****PRESS RELEASE*****

‘Right To Read’ Statewide Virtual Launch to Raise Awareness for Literacy in Michigan

Parents, Students, Educators and Lawmakers Demand Evidence-Based Instruction and Culturally Responsive Curriculum

Literacy is the civil rights issue of our time. From outdated reading instruction to the outright banning of books, literacy across the state is under assault. Michigan Education Justice Coalition stands with Lt. Governor Gilchrist in our belief that all children deserve to experience the joy of reading and have the freedom to learn. The Lt. Governor will join us on February 1st, the first day of Black History Month, as [MEJC launches a statewide virtual celebration of literacy](#) to call on our state to prioritize Michigan students’ right to read and safeguard curriculum across the state.

[Michigan’s reading scores have only gotten worse](#) in the past two decades while other states have seen significant improvement; only half of Michigan’s third-graders are reading and writing at grade-level. It’s clear our students are not getting the support they need to succeed.

Not only are children struggling to learn to read, but many students do not see themselves represented in their classroom books or general curriculum. What’s more, there has been a concerted effort to [deprive schools of books](#) depicting LGBTQ+ characters and an overt attempt to [whitewash our nation’s history](#).

We must come together to demand evidence-based reading instruction, support culturally responsive curriculum, and to push back against threats to limit inclusive curriculum. Our students deserve to receive an education that tells the whole story and introduces them to new ideas and cultures.

Imagine a future where all of Michigan’s students have everything they need to succeed in school. Where every child, no matter where they live, what color they are, or their background, could connect with books in which they see themselves and their cultures represented. We must support - and adequately fund - our public schools so that our children can experience the joy of reading books that impart honesty about who we are, integrity in how we treat others, and freedom to pursue our dreams. Our children deserve the foundation for success: the ability to read.

[Join MEJC and Lt. Governor Gilchrist on February 1st at 6:30](#) to demand that all Michigan children have the Right To Read!

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The [Michigan Education Justice Coalition](#) is a statewide network committed to advocating for equitable public education policies and funding to create safe and healthy learning environments. We envision a Michigan where public schools get the support they need, strengthening communities and making them better places to live for all of us.