



News Release

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Flanagan Embarks on Building A Culture of Reading in Michigan

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LANSING – State Superintendent Mike Flanagan today announced an effort to coordinate private donations to help build a culture of reading in Michigan.

“There are too many people, including children and adults, who cannot read,” Flanagan said. “We need to change that. To help build a culture of reading in Michigan, we need to get books in their hands and in their homes.”

Flanagan’s announcement is a follow-up to his holiday podcast (http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-37818_45256_45257-318158--,00.html) that encouraged families to read to their children; take them to the local library; and buy books as gifts so families can build their own home collections, as well.

“Unfortunately, many families don’t have the means by which to buy books and build their own home libraries,” Flanagan said. “I do know that there are generous and thoughtful people out there who would like to make that happen.”

Flanagan is embarking on an effort to coordinate a single system for individuals; businesses; and groups, clubs and civic organizations to contribute any amount for the express purpose of providing children’s books to young readers in low-income homes.

“Reading is the foundation of learning and success,” Flanagan said. “Building a reading culture in every corner of this state will build a stronger Michigan for generations.”

Fostering resources for early childhood literacy, and building a culture of reading, will help Michigan attain the goal of having all children proficient in reading by the end of the third grade, Flanagan added.

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