

## Early Literacy Task Force in Action

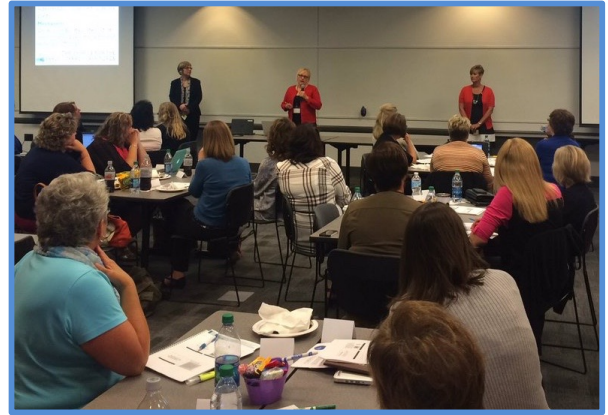
### ISD Coaches Support Launched

The urgency to address early literacy is increasing. Release of the 2016 M-STEP results showed only 46% of Michigan 3rd Graders scored Proficient in ELA. Data reported by Education Trust ranked Michigan as 41st of 50 states on NAEP 4th Grade Reading, with a projection of 48th by 2030 if current trends continue ([Michigan Achieves! 2016 Michigan State of Education Report, 2016](#)).

Progress toward addressing this challenge is underway. In ten short months, the Early Literacy Task Force has moved from brainstorming needs to defining essential practices that are drawing state and national attention. On September 26, Task Force co-chairs, Naomi Norman and Susan Townsend, joined Nell Duke in an Ed Week Webinar entitled *Early Literacy Instruction: 10 Research-informed Practices That Can Change Every Classroom*.

Tamara Bashore-Berg, Susan Townsend and Joanne Hopper presented a session entitled *Leading in Literacy: How Educational Leaders Are Changing the Game*, at the MASA conference on September 22; and the October issue of MASA Leader will feature an article about the collaborative efforts underway.

A \$1.9 million professional learning grant from Michigan Department of Education is supporting the work. Details of progress are listed below:



Literacy Coaches Institute Kickoff, Washtenaw ISD

#### Grant Year 1

- ✓ ISD coaches support was launched with two institutes attended by 85 coaches.
- ✓ The first quarterly network session is scheduled for September 29. The session, focused on School-level Essential Practices, is presented by Dr. Kristy Cooper and Dr. Melissa Usiak.
- ✓ MVU is building resources, including modules and a Web-based community, that will provide support for coaches and teachers.

#### Grant Year 2

- ✓ A Scope of Work was presented to MDE for consideration on September 20. A draft Theory of Action created by task force leads supports the plan. The task force is currently seeking stakeholder input on the Theory of Action before its final adoption.

## PARTNER LINKS

EduPaths [Calendar](#)  
MACUL [Website](#)  
MASSP [Website](#)  
MI ASCD [Website](#)

MI Assessment Consortium [Website](#)  
MI Math/Science Center Network [Website](#)  
TRIG [Website](#)  
REMC [Website](#)

*Experience the  
Power of  
Partnering*

## Curriculum and Technology Leadership Summit

### Collaborative Event a Success

*“There’s no manual or script for innovation. It’s contextual.”*

Dave Richards,  
Superintendent, Fraser Schools

Nearly 200 attended the summit held on August 12 at Oakland Schools. The theme for the day was innovation and learning transformation. Keynote presenter, Dr. Dave Richards, Superintendent, Fraser Schools, led by presenting the urgency for learning transformation. Richards reminded the audience, “There is no manual or script for innovation. It’s contextual.”

Several breakout sessions provided opportunities for the audience to learn how schools across the state are innovating, as well as processes and supports that will aid schools in this work. The summit planning group will convene this fall to identify next steps in collaboration among ISD and local technology and curriculum leaders.

## SAT Task Force Update

### Progress on New Resources to Support Schools

SAT Task Force is working to develop resources to support principals, counselors, and teachers:

- ✓ ELA consultants drafted an SAT Instructional Practices companion document for high school teachers. The document is being reviewed and will be published soon.
- ✓ A webpage of ELA resources is also targeted for release in November 2016.
- ✓ In partnership with College Board, six consultants were identified to work with College Board leads to develop post-testing instructional resources. The resources are targeted for release in early 2017.
- ✓ GELN hosted a Counselor Train the Trainer session for facilitators of county counselor networks in the Spring. A follow up is underway to identify outstanding needs.

## Understanding Poverty

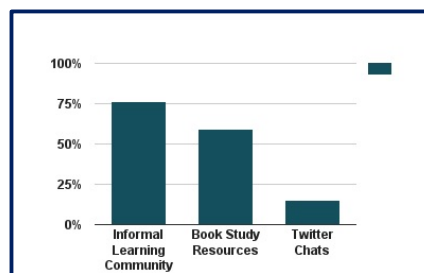
### Partners Launch Learning Opportunities

According to MI School Data, 46% of Michigan K-12 students are economically disadvantaged (2015-16, [www.mischooldata.org](http://www.mischooldata.org)). National Kids Count data indicate that in 2014, 32% of Michigan children lived in families lacking secure parental employment ([National Kids Count Data Center](http://NationalKidsCountDataCenter)). These statistics demand a response from educators.

GELN and partners from the School Improvement

Facilitators’ Network, Michigan ASCD, and Michigan Virtual University are collaborating to design formal and informal learning opportunities.

Figure 1: Resources to help staff



Seventy-three percent of GELN members responded to a survey administered by the planning team led by GELN member,

Brenda Tenniswood. Seventy-one percent have already provided professional learning opportunities related to poverty. Figure 1 shows responses to the question: *What resources would help you lead your staff?*

Partners are committed to extending the learning beyond the [Fall MDE School Improvement Conference](#) November 21-22, where Eric Jensen, will share his current work on poverty and student engagement. Formal and informal learning opportunities are planned.

Additional details will be shared at the [School Improvement Facilitators’ Network](#) October 11, and the [ISD School Improvement conference preview](#) October 19. The only way educators will be able to help all students succeed is when they better understand the influences of poverty on student success.