



News Release

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February 5 is Digital Learning Day in Michigan, Nation

February 5, 2014

LANSING – State Superintendent Mike Flanagan says Digital Learning Day 2014 is a reminder that digital delivery of classroom content helps improve learning and streamline instruction, and the Michigan eLibrary is a rich resource for teachers and learning online.

“Michigan is once again participating in Digital Learning Day by providing high quality resources and encouraging schools to incorporate digital delivery into their instruction,” Flanagan said. “When schools offer a blended learning environment that relies less and less on outmoded practices and resources, everyone benefits, especially our kids.

“Michigan was the first state to require students to have an online learning experience before graduation. Every day should be a digital learning day.”

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE), Michigan Association of Computer Users in Learning (MACUL), and Regional Educational Media Center Association of Michigan (REMCAM) are teaming to spread the word on digital delivery’s importance in the modern classroom and declare 2014 the Year of the Digital Learner.

Year of the Digital Learner 2014 events are available at:

<http://www.macul.org/otherevents/year-of-the-digital-learner/>.

State Librarian Nancy Robertson said one of the state’s main digital resources is the Michigan eLibrary (MeL), <http://mel.org>, a service of the Library of Michigan (LOM). MeL has long served Michigan teachers, students, parents and schools.

“In 2013, new content was added to the already robust line-up of MeL’s eResources that Pre K-12 educators use in their classrooms,” Robertson said. “Early literacy resources such as eBooks and interactives are available to engage and stimulate early learners.”

Meanwhile, she said, middle and high school teachers and their students will find reliable online resources such as full-text information from magazines, journals and news, opposing viewpoints with supporting content, country and cultures of the world, practice tests for skills building in core subject areas plus practice for college entrance exams, and more.

Robertson said MeL also has a special resource area just for teachers: The Michigan Online Resources for Educators (M.O.R.E.), <http://more.mel.org>. Teachers can find thousands of curricular-based materials such as lesson plans, interactives, videos, assessments and more that are aligned to state and national standards (CCSS).

To assist Michigan schools with online course delivery, the REMC Association of Michigan provides more than 80 grade three online learning-through-adult lessons, units, and courses through the REMC Michigan Learns Online Moodle Hub.

Those interested can search for courses at Michigan Learns Online (www.milearnsonline.org). The online learning material can be reviewed and downloaded to a local district's Moodle site. In addition to the online learning courses, Michigan Learns Online (MLO) houses support materials for parents, students, and educators that will help them successfully participate in an online learning environment. Schools can contact their REMC/RESA or ISD Technology Director to find out more about the REMC MLO Moodle Hub by going to www.remc.org to find contact information.

For more information on the Year of the Digital Learner, contact Barb Fardell at the MDE (fardellb@michigan.gov).

For more information on MeL, contact Deb Biggs Thomas (BiggsThomasD@michigan.gov).

Information on national activities can be found at <http://www.digitallearningday.org/>.

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