

Subject: Teachers Take Time in the Summer to Increase Learning for Students

During the final week of June, the MiELA Network hosted a statewide conference where over 520 teachers and 150 administrators from across Michigan acquired skills for improving reading and writing instruction in Michigan classrooms.

Participants gathered at the Lansing Center to learn about the new English Language Arts units that focus on effective and rigorous writing instruction.

Historically, it was sufficient to have students at all grade levels write about their own personal experiences. However, with the increased demands of the global marketplace, Michigan students must now be career and college ready.

In order for Michigan students to be career and college ready, their teachers must help them develop a point of view and support it with evidence from texts they read. The purpose of these English Language Arts units, designed for teachers from kindergarten through twelfth grade, include having students read complex texts, gather supportive evidence and write explanations as well as arguments.

Through the words of those present during this groundbreaking year of the MiELA network conference, following is how some Muskegon County, Oakland County and Kent County educators summed up the week.

“This week has meant sharing and collaborating, meeting like-minded educators working toward a common goal, which is what’s best for kids... so on that note, it has been fantastic! Thanks to everyone!”

“To me this conference means that we can unite every corner, every inch of our state and help each other through difficult times and help each other grow in learning together.”

“What an inspiring week to be with educators from across Michigan, to be collaborating and sharing ideas.”

“I think this week has been amazing. I have met some amazing friends and teachers who are so excited to get back to their classrooms. They are ready for school to start tomorrow!”