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Basic Skills: What Happened to Right to Read?

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BASIC SKILLS: What Will Happen to Right to Read?

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For the past six years, the Right to Read program has been in operation as a State Leadership and Training Project in the Michigan Department of Education.

In June, 1980 this program will end its operation. The Leadership and Training Projects will be continued through funding of the new legislation — Title II Basic Skills: Part B 222-224.

The Basic Skills legislation was passed by Congress in 1978 as an amendment to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (P195-561). Title II was created for use by state and local agencies for improving educational programs in basic skills. Basic Skills includes reading, mathematics, written communication, and oral communication.

According to the new legislation, federal funds will be made available directly to local educational agencies who apply for projects to demonstrate im-

proved basic skills instruction. Projects may be conducted at both elementary and secondary levels. In addition to direct grants to local schools, the State Leadership and Training Programs will be continued with some changes.

One set of changes involves the inclusion of oral and written communication and mathematics. A second change in the State Leadership and Training Program will be the ability to award grants directly to local educational agencies.

During the next few months, the administrative and procedural details will need to be worked out at both the federal and state levels.

All educators in Michigan will be affected by this new legislation, which will be in effect until 1983. Information regarding Michigan's Basic Skills Program will be sent to local districts in November of 1979.



ATTENTION READING LAB DIRECTORS AND PERSONNEL

As a service to the profession, I/CT (Instructional/Communications Technology, Inc.) will publish an *International Directory of Reading Labs*. The Directory will provide you with the names of your colleagues, kinds of lab configurations, and funding information which you might use to expand your program. Furthermore, this Directory will facilitate the (1) sharing of successful teaching and management techniques, and (2) solutions to common problems unique to the lab program.

I/CT plans to make the new Directory available at the National IRA convention in St. Louis in 1980. Therefore, all information for inclusion must be received by February 1, 1980.

If you and your school would like to be included in this new *International Directory of Reading Labs*, please send the name of your contact person to:

Instructional/Communications Technology, Inc.
10 Stepar Place
Huntington Station, New York, U.S.A. 11746

This poem, in celebration of the Year of the Child 1979, is dedicated to the children of the world. Educators can help each child pick a big bouquet by providing him with the knowledge, wisdom, and appreciation to live in his world; and by supporting conservation measures that will save the world for the children.

THE WHOLE WORLD IS A BOUQUET

*if I could pick
All the soft and fleecy clouds above
With shapes like man or beast;
All the fresh green grass
At my feet and everywhere
and hold them in my hand,
I'd have a big bouquet. .*

*if I could pick
The bright warm sun,
The big yellow sun;
The soft round moon;
The twinkling stars
From the sky
and hold them in my hand,
I'd have a big bouquet.*

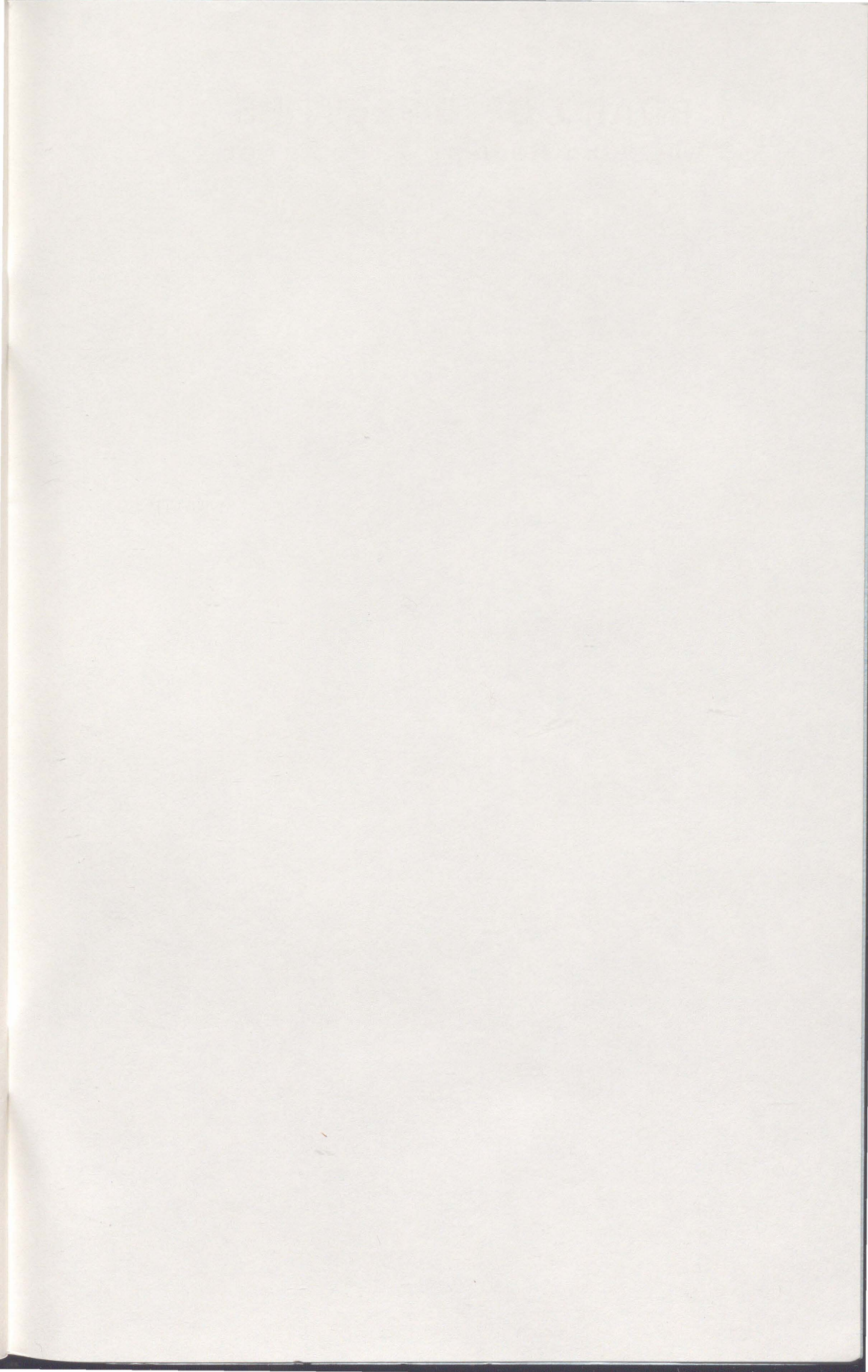
*if I could pick
All the trees of spring
With blossoms of
Pink, red and white;
All the autumn trees
With leaves of reds and golds,
Purples and browns;
All the tall pines and stately palms
and hold them in my hand,
I'd have a big bouquet.*

*if I could pick
All the sparkling lakes;
The mighty oceans;
The rushing rivers;
The mountains, steep and wide,
Snow capped or green;
All the valleys with silent streams;
and hold them in my hand,
I'd have a big bouquet.*

*if I could pick
All things in the whole wide world
and hold them in my hand,
What a big, beautiful bouquet it would be!*

(Note: Poem very appropriate to use for creative art lesson.)

M. Edna Townsend, June 1979



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