



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Board Adopts *Integrating Communities And Schools* Policies Discusses Early Childhood, Educational Leadership Recommendations

Advocating for additional state funding for community school programs and encouraging school district involvement in promoting and sustaining community and school collaboration were examples of several policies unanimously adopted by State Board members today.

The Board accepted the proposals as generated from its Integrating Communities and Schools task force, co-chaired by Sharon Gire, State Board of Education Vice-President, and Herbert S. Moyer, State Board of Education member. In the policies, the State Board will:

- Encourage local collaboration by enacting, through its grants and contract requirements, proof of active collaboration in related school actions;
- Encourage school districts to create a local plan for promoting and sustaining community/school collaboration;
- Encourage school districts to get actively involved in their local multi-purpose collaborative body;
- Advocate for rules, regulations, and legislation that enable provision of quality services taking place in school facilities before and after the school day;
- Advocate for additional state funding for community school programs to supplement the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program, and;
- Advocate for continued use of funds from other state agencies to support school and community integration, and encourage the provision of funding to support community driven initiatives.

Further, Michigan Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Watkins will produce, with the assistance of Department of Education staff, an annual document which will outline sources of funding that can be used collaboratively statewide to fund these initiatives. Further, the Department will develop a guide for local districts that outlines how to promote community integration between schools and local community organizations.

The Board also listened to two important reports from its task forces for Ensuring Early Childhood Literacy and Elevating Educational Leadership.

The Early Childhood Literacy Task Force, chaired by State Board of Education Member Sharon A. Wise, proposed several recommendations for Board members to consider, including promoting public awareness to inform citizens to become dedicated to early literacy, fostering collaborative partnerships that optimize the growth and development of Michigan's children, and ensuring that all children receive a seamless, high-quality, early literacy experiences.

The Elevating Educational Leadership Task Force, chaired by State Board NASBE Delegate Marianne Yared McGuire, also proposed several recommendations for Board members to consider, including recommending a new system of endorsement for school administrators to the Legislature, creating an advisory panel to monitor and review proposed changes in educational policy and their potential implication for school administrators, and to redefine the roles and responsibilities of principals in their schools.

As is customary, Board members listened to reports from both task forces this month. The Board is anticipated to adopt policy recommendations from the task forces at its September meeting. Complete copies of all of the Task Force reports will be available on-line at www.michigan.gov/mde.

The next meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on September 12, 2002 in Lansing.

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