



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

August 15, 2006

Dear K-12 Superintendents, ISDs, PSAs, Executive Directors, and TPIs:

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) convened a committee in 2000 to develop specific program standards for the preparation of elementary teachers. Elementary teachers need to have content knowledge and pedagogy to manage instruction in all of the core content areas within a self-contained classroom for grades P-5 (e.g. integrated science, mathematics, English language arts, reading, social studies, music, health, physical education and an orientation to world languages) and, with appropriate endorsements, discrete content classes for students in grades 6-8. The committee, represented by teacher preparation institutions, K-12 school districts and Intermediate School Districts (ISDs), was charged with the task of designing standards to prepare elementary teachers for Michigan's classrooms.

The *Administrative Rules for the Certification of Michigan Teachers* provides the structure for the preparation of all teachers. The proposed Elementary Standards employ a framework developed from three sources: the Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI) standards for Elementary Education, the Council of Social Foundations of Education, and the Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (INTASC) standards. The referent committee aligned the language for the standards on pedagogy and professionalism with the State Board of Education (SBE) approved Entry-Level Standards for Michigan Teachers. The content standards are also aligned with the Michigan Curriculum Framework and Grade Level Content Expectations. A rationale for the development of these elementary standards is available at the following URL: http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-5234_5683_6368-33926--,00.html. Reference to pertinent educational research has also been included.

This draft of elementary standards includes sections related to:

- Professionalism - Reflective Practices, Collaboration and Professional Growth
- Development, Learning, and Motivation of Students
- Curriculum - Central Concepts, Tools of Inquiry, and Structures of Content
- Instruction - Integrating and Applying Knowledge for Instruction
- Assessment - Assessment for Instruction
- Student Teaching and field experiences

An initial field review of the proposed standards provided significant response. The Elementary Standards committee adjusted the elementary standards proposal to address some of the concerns that were raised. In November and December 2005, two forums were held allowing additional interested individuals an opportunity to read, discuss, and respond to the proposed standards and further adjustments were made. These proposed standards are now being distributed to a sample of local schools and ISDs, all teacher preparation institutions, all Elementary Standards forum participants, and relevant educational organizations for public comment regarding the revisions.

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Your comments and recommendations regarding the proposed standards would be greatly appreciated. The draft Elementary Standards and an electronic version of the response form can be found on the menu at http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-5234_5683_6368-33926--,00.html. Forward all responses by October 2, 2006 to Claudia Nicol, by facsimile 517/373-0542, or email nicolc@michigan.gov. Questions about the standards may be directed to Bonnie Rockafellow at 517/373-7861 or rockafellowb@michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Flora L. Jenkins".

Flora L. Jenkins, Ph.D.
Director
Office of Professional Preparation Services

FL:BR:cn