



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



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PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents,  
Public School Academy Directors, Nonpublic School Superintendents,  
School Principals, Mathematics and Science Centers

FROM: Mike Flanagan 

SUBJECT: Recognizing Excellent Educators

The Michigan Department of Education coordinates several recognition programs including:

- Michigan Teacher of the Year
- Michigan School Support Person of the Year
- Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching
- Talent Pool Recommendation Database

A summary of each of these programs including the criteria, timelines, applications, and contact person is found on the Department's website: <http://www.michigan.gov/mde>. Click on Recognition Programs in the right margin. For your convenience, an overview of these programs is attached. Each of these programs offers an opportunity to recognize educators who are making a difference in our schools and with our children. I am also forwarding the position paper, *Six Practical Reasons to Nominate a Michigan Educator for Recognition*.

The Department also collaborates with the Milken Family Foundation on its National Educator Award process. However, there is no nomination or application procedure for this award. Information on the Milken Family Foundation can be accessed at <http://www.mff.org/>.

The State Board of Education and I encourage you to participate in these programs. Recognizing the great contributions educators and support staff make to the learning community and to our children takes very little time and helps to boost the morale of these essential employees.

Please forward this information to your award coordinators, human resources personnel, professional development coordinators, curriculum directors, public relations staff, union representatives, and parent-teacher organizations. We would also appreciate it if you could link the Department Recognition Programs to your website.

I hope you know how much I appreciate all the work you do every day for the children, teachers and support staff in Michigan schools. Thank you.

Attachments

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## Teacher Recognition Programs

### Michigan Department of Education



	<b>2006-2007 Teacher of the Year</b>	<b>2005-2006 School Support Person of the Year</b>	<b>2006 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching</b>	<b>2006 Talent Pool Recommendation</b>
Nomination Process	Online nomination form: <a href="http://www.michigan.gov/mde">www.michigan.gov/mde</a> , due 11-3-05, 11:59 p.m.	See guidelines <a href="http://www.michigan.gov/mde">www.michigan.gov/mde</a>	Online nomination <a href="http://www.paemst.org">www.paemst.org</a>	Online recommendation <a href="http://www.michigan.gov/mde">www.michigan.gov/mde</a>
Regional Deadline	Applications to regional coordinators by 12-16-05	Nomination portfolios to regional coordinators by 11-22-05	None	None
State Deadline	Regional coordinators submit top three applications to the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) by 3-1-06.	Regional coordinators submit top three nominations to MDE by 2-2-06	5-1-06	Ongoing
Notification Date	Spring 2006	Spring 2006	Spring 2007	None
Type of Award	Sabbatical to work with MDE and the State Board of Education (SBE) August 2006-June 2007	Statewide recognition	National recognition \$10,000 Trip to Washington, D.C.	Possibly chosen for service on state level panels and task forces; possibly considered for recognition.
Sponsors	MDE, SBE, and Council of Chief State School Officers	MDE and SBE	White House and National Science Foundation; MDE and SBE	MDE and SBE

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## **Six Practical Reasons to Nominate a Michigan Educator for Recognition\***

The time is now to nominate educators for several recognition programs. While the focus of each program is squarely—and rightly—on teachers, the benefits of each nomination extend far beyond to encompass professional and public communities statewide. Time and effort invested in nominating an educator are investments that will continue to pay dividends for years to come.

Each nomination...

1. ***is good for the teacher.*** Recognition has the immediate benefits of boosting the teacher's morale and cementing the already solid perceptions of students, parents, and colleagues. Everyone's expectations rise, and outstanding teachers are encouraged to soar to even greater heights. Recognition programs open doors to countless professional opportunities such as service on state advisory groups, participation in college/university teacher preparation programs, and professional organization activities. Recognition expands the sphere of influence of teachers. It helps leaders lead.
2. ***is good for the students.*** Few things can compare to the pride and joy students feel when their teacher, or a teacher they know, is publicly recognized.
3. ***is good for the school and its faculty.*** Nominating an educator for an award raises the credibility of any school and its staff in the eyes of the local community. Even the most negative critic will refrain from degrading such recognition and will acknowledge, along with others, that the school is doing something right. The prestige of these awards rubs off on the institution and on everyone who is a part of it.
4. ***is good for the school district, its leaders, and its patrons.*** The same positive effects that accrue to a school accrue district-wide. Enhanced community prestige and community pride are priceless and directly contribute to improved expectations, support for schools, and student learning.
5. ***is good for the profession.*** In recent years, "teacher-bashing" has entered the language as a crude sort of sport. However, recognized teachers are among the very best advertisements the profession can put forth as evidence of success. Each awardee represents hundreds of other skillful and knowledgeable educators who have contributed to the success of the learning community.

6. *is good for society.* A healthy society respects and values learning and rewards those who love it and who labor to pass it on to the citizens of tomorrow. A nomination provides society the opportunity to recognize a representative of the formal learning community and to engage in the public celebrations which reconfirm society's respect and debt to teachers past, teachers present, and teachers yet-to-come.

Nominating a teacher for the Michigan Teacher of the Year Award, the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, the Michigan Department of Education Talent Pool, and a support staff person for the Michigan Support Staff Person of the Year Award takes very little time; but, the benefits—immediate and eventual, in the classroom and beyond the school, foreseen and unforeseen—are great.

**Make it happen. Nominate a teacher for:**

- Michigan Teacher of the Year
- Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching
- Michigan Department of Education Talent Pool

**Make it happen. Nominate a support staff person for:**

- Michigan Support Staff Person of the Year Award

It's as easy as 1-2-3.

1. Go to [www.michigan.gov/mde](http://www.michigan.gov/mde).
2. Click on Recognition Programs in the right margin.
3. Click on the specific award program for full details.

\*This position paper is based on a document written by Dr. James Haas, 1993 Milken Educator, Kansas, entitled *Six Practical Reasons to Nominate a Teacher of the Year*.