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CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL
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DIRECTOR

DATE: August 22, 2007

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Administrators

FROM: Margaret M. Ropp, Ph.D., Director, Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) *mmr*
Sally Vaughn, ^{SN} Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer, Michigan Department of Education (MDE)

SUBJECT: **Class of 2007 Four-Year Graduation Cohort Report Now Available for Review**

In memos dated November 2, 2006 and May 31, 2007, CEPI and MDE notified you that in order to comply with *The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001* and, as defined in *The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Consolidated State Application Accountability Workbook*, the state of Michigan must move to an accountability system for high schools in which a **graduation rate includes only "on-time" graduates who earn diplomas in four years.** This calculation aligns with the guidelines provided by the National Governors Association (NGA) Graduation Counts Compact.

The 2007 graduation rate, to be reported next summer/fall (2008), will mark the first time Michigan will report a four-year cohort-based graduation rate.

The "four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate" is calculated by tracking individual students from the time they were enrolled as first-time ninth-graders, with a four-year expected completion rate. Based on fall 2006 and spring 2007 data, we anticipate there may be **as much as a 10 percent decline** in the state-level graduation rate because of the number of continuing students who were reported at a grade level lower than expected and thus may not be on track to graduate in 2007. We anticipate individual school district graduation rates will vary.

Report Now Available

CEPI began this new method to calculate graduation rates starting with the class of 2007. To ensure your district's student graduation rate information is accurate, CEPI is making the class of 2007 four-year graduation cohort tables available for your review and input through the Single Record Student Database/Unique Identification Code (SRSD/UIC) Application.

Recommended actions and feedback are requested during the Fall 2007 SRSD Submission **(August - October)**.

Recommended Actions

1. **Work with your SRSD authorized user** to access the report through the SRSD.

2. **Carefully review the report** to ensure that the data your district reported to CEPI are accurate and complete.
 - a. Student records coded as "Missing Expected Record" probably result from data quality errors. Check to see if those students have been submitted subsequently with new UICs (requiring linking), or if they were reported with the wrong exit codes. Report the students with accurate data in the Fall 2007 SRSD Submission.
 - b. Ensure that the student UICs are correctly assigned and/or linked. Accurate UIC resolution is critical for the graduation rate calculations, as it involves tracking students over four years (14 data submissions) by UIC.
3. **Provide feedback to CEPI** regarding any data errors that are not able to be corrected in your Fall 2007 SRSD Submission, as well as to comment on report usability. The feedback you provide on this release of the report will be used to modify the Graduation and Dropout (GAD)/Review and Comment Application.

Report Notes

- This report is based on fall 2003 through spring 2007 SRSD data. It will be updated again in the fall with data submitted in the End-of-Year 2007 SRSD Submission.
- The report highlights the current disposition of students through the spring 2007 SRSD collection. It does not necessarily display the students' final dispositions.
- The report does NOT reflect the business rules (operations) that will be applied to student records in calculating graduation rates (potential extensions, minimum enrollment periods for school accountability, minimum number of students, etc.).
- The MDE and CEPI are still waiting for approval from the U.S. Department of Education on one-year extensions for certain student populations.
- The GAD Application will be available in spring 2008, which will provide the final disposition of students in the 2007 graduation cohort and the resulting graduation rates.

Please provide feedback on the reports and data to CEPI by sending an e-mail message to CEPI Customer Support at CEPI@michigan.gov, or call (517) 335-0505 and follow the prompts. Please provide your name, telephone number (including area code and extension), district code, and district name (if applicable) along with your message.

If you have questions regarding the use of the "on-time" graduation rate in accountability issues, please contact Paul Bielawski at 517-313-1342 or by e-mail at bielawskip@michigan.gov.

cc: Secondary school principals, SRSD authorized users, public school academy authorizers