



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

December 4, 2014

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Venessa A. Keesler, Ph.D. 
Deputy Superintendent, Education Services

SUBJECT: Section 5-O-B Project-Based Learning Option – Implementation Plan
Available

According to Section 5-O-B of the 2014-15 Pupil Accounting Manual, a district must receive approval from the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) in cases where the district wishes to provide self-scheduled, project-based learning courses that have no online or computer-based component as part of a Seat Time Waiver program. While Seat Time Waivers have most frequently been used for 100% and blended online programs in the past, additional options exist for other non-traditional flexible learning opportunities and other flexible scheduling options based on student needs and strengths.

Districts that have been approved for a Seat Time Waiver in 2011-12 or a subsequent year are eligible to submit an implementation plan for self-scheduled, project-based learning under Section 5-O-B for the 2nd semester of the 2014-15 school year. However, the option will be available in the 2015-16 school year, so districts that do not currently hold a Seat Time Waiver may wish to apply in the Spring of 2015 in order to take advantage of the self-scheduled, project based learning option in 2015-16.

A district must receive approval of a self-scheduled, project-based learning course under Section 5-O-B from the intermediate school district auditor before submitting an implementation plan to the MDE. The implementation plan for the course must include provisions regarding how the pupil will satisfy the requirements for counting the pupil in membership.

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Page 2
December 4, 2014

The implementation plan for such self-scheduled, project-based learning is now available at www.techplan.org under the heading of Seat Time Waivers. Implementation plans must be submitted by December 28, 2014, in order to be considered for MDE approval for the 2nd semester of the 2014-15 school year.

If you have any questions regarding the information being requested, please contact Brian Barber or Eric Lipinski by email at barberb2@michigan.gov or lipinskie@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance