



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** May 19, 2016

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

**FROM:** Venessa A. Keesler, Ph.D.   
Deputy Superintendent, Division of Educator, Student and School Support

**SUBJECT:** Accountability Plans for 2015-16 and Beyond

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed into law this past December. It replaces the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) of 2001. ESSA's accountability provisions will not come into effect until 2017-18, however the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is already planning for that transition now. The transition plans include substantial stakeholder engagement around a variety of topics, including Michigan's accountability system. Demand has been growing over several years for an easily understood, A-F accountability system. ESSA stakeholder groups will soon begin discussing how to ensure this system aligns with MDE's Top 10 in 10 efforts. In the meantime, our plans for accountability in 2015-16 are outlined below:

- Accountability Scorecards and School Rankings calculated as outlined under approved ESEA Flexibility Waiver
- No new Priority/Focus schools identified; exit existing Priority/Focus schools meeting exit criteria
- New Reward schools identified using School Rankings and Beating the Odds
- Accountability results published publicly; Annual Education Reports (AERs) published

MDE currently is anticipating the above items to happen during fall 2016. More detailed information regarding the 2015-16 accountability cycle will be communicated through the Spotlight on Student Assessment and Accountability e-newsletter in the coming months.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

JOHN C. AUSTIN – PRESIDENT • CASANDRA E. ULBRICH – VICE PRESIDENT  
MICHELLE FECTEAU – SECRETARY • PAMELA PUGH – TREASURER  
LUPE RAMOS-MONTIGNY – NASBE DELEGATE • KATHLEEN N. STRAUS  
EILEEN LAPPIN WEISER • RICHARD ZEILE

608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909  
[www.michigan.gov/mde](http://www.michigan.gov/mde) • 517-373-3324