



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION



## Informational Update

August 2012

All Informational Updates, with attachments, can be found on our website: [www.michigan.gov/octe](http://www.michigan.gov/octe)

### Greetings from Patty Cantú:

I would like you be aware of a few initiatives that the Michigan Economic Development Corporation has been working on. Hopefully, you have already heard about the K-12 STEM Committee. They have recently worked with the 25 Workforce Development Boards and Education Advisory Groups and have offered small grants to promote STEM activities in local workforce regions. In order to qualify for these grants, the local activity had to be submitted into the STEM asset map that was developed by the Michigan STEM Partnership (this is organized by Math/Science Center folks into 6 large hubs across the state that get together periodically to talk about local STEM issues.) I wanted to be sure to remind you of the committee and refresh you on the way the committee works because there is also a MEDC K-12 Entrepreneurship Committee. Soon, a joint letter from MDE and MEDC will be heading to Superintendents regarding the need to expand Entrepreneurial activities in the state and inviting schools to submit information on local programs/activities that currently exist on Entrepreneurship and Entrepreneurial thinking. The intent is the same - for future funding opportunities. When the letter is sent out, I will be sure to send a copy out on this e-mail list.

We are in the process of clarifying and updating our documents and processes to reflect the changes to the dual enrollment laws. In a nutshell, students are now able to opt for dual enrollment in grades 9 through 12. They are limited to 10 postsecondary courses unless in a specific program designed by school districts and colleges. In addition, language was added to allow non-credit postsecondary courses in CTE. The intent was to allow students to take certification programs at their community colleges. Watch for more to come from the department on this topic in the near future.

There are now 20 Early/Middle College in the state. Many of them have a specific career preparation focus (like health care and STEM). If you have an interest in finding out more, please give me a call.

I have made a request to OVAE regarding our Perkins Core Performance Indicators and making an adjustment to our performance levels that will reflect the new cut scores on the Michigan Merit Exam. Although we have known about the new cut scores for some time, OVAE requested that we wait until we heard about our ESEA flexibility request before proceeding. Now that our flexibility request has been approved, we hope to move forward. I will keep you informed of our progress.

Finally, the Workforce Development Agency is focusing on several business/industry cluster areas that have the potential to impact the economy and where there are talent pipeline concerns - not enough appropriately educated workers to fill the need. One of those areas is Manufacturing. To that end, the Workforce Development Agency Director in charge of the Manufacturing Cluster, Bob Sherer, would like to start a simple e-mail network of

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professionals involved with manufacturing talent issues. The network would support information exchange across the state on exemplary programs and new developments. The primary purpose is to foster information exchange among professionals who have knowledge of the talent situation in manufacturing as well as individuals operating programs directed to providing skills for the manufacturing workforce and recruiting jobs in the sector. The e-mail volume will be restricted to avoid becoming burdensome, the list will not be shared with any other organization, and the content will be focused around talent issues, innovative education or talent gap-filling programs, and emerging issues. If you are interested, please e-mail Bob Sherer at: [shererr@michigan.gov](mailto:shererr@michigan.gov), and let him know.

Welcome back and I hope you have a wonderful year!!

### **New CTE Administrators' Workshop**

Each year, OCTE staff conducts a new CTE Administrators Workshop to help all new CTE, CEPD, and key administrative staff to learn the essential details related to their CTE responsibilities. This workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, September 12, 2012, at the John A. Hannah building in Lansing. Please contact Joanne Mahony at: [mahonyj@michigan.gov](mailto:mahonyj@michigan.gov), if you have any questions about this event. Prior registration is required. Please contact Jenn Weisenberg at: [weisenbergj@michigan.gov](mailto:weisenbergj@michigan.gov), if you would like to be registered for this event.

### **19.0700 Child Care Programs**

This fall is the last year to enroll new students in a two-year program. PSNs for 19.0700 will be discontinued in the spring of 2014. By fall of 2014, agencies may apply to be a new 13.0000 program (with appropriate certification and curriculum changes), continue to operate the program as a “non-CTE” elective, or discontinue the program. Agencies wishing to apply for approval of a 13.0000 program may consider the new program application process this or next fall if they have an appropriately certificated teacher (VG) and have made substantial progress on changing the curriculum. Additional information will be sent to 19.0700 programs later this year.

Wayne State University is the only institution currently approved to recommend candidates for the “VG” endorsement required for 13.0000 programs. The two required courses were offered this summer, and will be offered again in the summer of 2014. For more information on the “VG” (13.0000) endorsement see: <http://coe.wayne.edu/ted/career-tech/certificate/teacher-cadet.php>.

### **OCTE Professional Development Calendar**

Attached is the most current calendar of events from OCTE.

### **MDE Memo #76-12**

#### *Personal Curriculum Update*

The personal curriculum, as established in section 380.1278b of the Revised School Code, allows specific modifications to be made to requirements of the Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) under certain conditions in order to individualize the rigor and relevance of the educational experience. While the law specifies the areas in which modifications may be made for specific groups of students, the personal curriculum is intended to help make the MMC accessible to all students while maintaining the academic rigor required to uphold the integrity of the high school diploma. [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/PC\\_Update\\_392082\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/PC_Update_392082_7.pdf).

### **SkillsUSA**

Attached is a list of the Michigan National Contest Medalists from the National Leadership and Skills Conference held in Kansas City June 23-27, 2012.

## **Work Keys in LearningExpress Library in MeL**

The LearningExpress Library in MeL has added Work Keys practice tests. In the Occupational Practice Tests Learning Center, you will find [WorkKeys Applied Mathematics Practice Tests](#) and WorkKeys Reading for Information Practice Tests. More information can be found in the attached document.

**CTE Highlighted on a Special News Report** ... shared by Jennifer Harrison

<http://www.9and10news.com/story/18598257/special-report-the-cost-of-learning>

## **Michigan Project Lead The Way (PLTW)/Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Conference**

October 26, 2012 • Kellogg Center, East Lansing  
Registration and continental breakfast 8:00 to 8:30 a.m.  
Program 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

This conference is being held to promote interest in STEM and PLTW in Michigan schools for the purposes of developing tomorrow's workforce and fostering economic and personal development.

Who should attend?

- Central office and school administrators
- Math, Science, Engineering, and Technology Teachers
- Potential STEM partners from universities, industry, community colleges, foundations and associations
- Counselors from PLTW Schools

Activities include:

- Student panels
- Poster sessions
- Demonstrations
- Presentations
- Nationally prominent speakers on innovation/important STEM thrusts and other relevant topics
- Exemplary PLTW teachers and school teams
- Exemplary STEM teachers and school teams

Check the MIEM website for registration: [www.gomiem.org](http://www.gomiem.org). A flyer is attached for your information.

## **ED Won't Enforce State Authorization Regulations**

For the last three years, the U.S. Department of Education's (ED's) efforts to draft, debate, approve, and implement final rules aimed at ensuring program integrity for Title IV student aid under the Higher Education Act (HEA) have been met with strong concern and both political and legal opposition. In yet another reversal of fortune, ED has announced that it will no longer enforce a requirement that distance education programs obtain permission to operate in every State in which they enroll at least one student. Without federal enforcement, the fate of the recent State authorization initiative is unclear, but many colleges and universities are breathing a sigh of relief.

In 2010, ED issued final rules implementing the State authorization provision, much to the chagrin of distance education providers. Faced with the prospect of having to seek authorization to operate from all 50 States, as well as D.C. and Puerto Rico, many institutions of higher education (IHEs) worried that their distance education programs would suffer under the new rule. ED continued to assure the higher education community that it was simply enforcing a rule that already required such authorization. Almost as soon as the provision went into effect, however, the higher education community (led by the for-profit sector) brought a series of legal challenges to the new State authorization requirements.

In June, ED was dealt a crushing blow when the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit upheld a lower court's ruling that ED has the authority to implement the rule, but that it did not give the community enough opportunity to comment and provide additional input before enacting the final rule.

Following this somewhat minor victory, ED has since sent out a five page attachment with a recent “Dear Colleague” letter stating that it will no longer seek to enforce the State authorization requirement. ED clarified that colleges will still need permission to operate in their home States, and will still have to comply with State laws on authorization. However, without the force of the federal government behind these rules, enforcement at the state level may falter as well.

While some in the higher education community are celebrating this recent announcement as a victory, ED still has the option of redrafting State authorization rules in another round of negotiated rule-making. After two years of fighting in court and in the press, it is unclear if ED will attempt another rulemaking effort, especially now that many States are working on reciprocity agreements to accept distance education programs. These agreements began popping up after the rules went into effect nearly two years ago, and a continued push to create a nationwide system of such agreements could short circuit a second attempt at implementing these rules at the federal level.

### **Workforce Wednesdays: Get Involved!**

Join NASDCTEc and the more than 40 other national organizations that make up the [Campaign to Invest in America’s Workforce](#) for “Workforce Wednesdays,” each Wednesday in August.

CTE and workforce development programs are an important part of the nation’s economic recovery and job creation effort, yet our nation’s investments in the skills of its people are at risk. Non-defense discretionary programs—including education and workforce programs—face at least \$55 billion in funding cuts as of January 2013 due to the Budget Control Act, and efforts to protect funding for defense programs could double the size of these cuts. Key policymakers have even proposed eliminating dozens of federal workforce programs. ***It is critically important that we help policymakers understand why investments in CTE and workforce development programs are important and how these investments impact their local communities.***

Participate in Workforce Wednesdays by taking action—it can be as simple as calling your Senators or Representative or, even better, arranging a site visit — but just take action on one or more Wednesdays during the month of August. Stand united with NASDCTEc and the [Campaign to Invest in America’s Workforce](#) in support of adequate funding for CTE, adult education and workforce training programs!

Members of Congress will be in their home districts during the month of August. Contact your Senators and Representative today to arrange an in-district meeting, a site visit, or engage in a direct conversation with in-district staff to let them know where you stand on funding for CTE and training programs. Or let your local community know why these investments matter by submitting an op-ed or letter to the Editor to your local paper. What you do isn’t as important as that you do something, so take action as part of Workforce Wednesdays in August!

## **Resources**

### **Occupational Outlook Handbook 2012–13 Edition**

This handbook represents the premier source for career information. The profiles featured here cover hundreds of occupations and describe What They Do, Work Environment, How to Become One, Pay, and more. Each profile also includes Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) employment projections for the 2010–20 decade.

<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

**Gooru Learning** ... shared by Janet Haas

I’ve been participating in the 4T Virtual Conference and have been learning lots of new things. An interesting site is called gooru learning. (link below) Explanation follows. Right now, there are not CTE topics, but I would imagine that will change soon. The math/science looks promising.

Our mission is to honor the human right to education, so we’re delivering standards-aligned educational resources to students all over the world – for free.

Gooru is a search engine for learning that allows you to explore and study over 2,600 standards-aligned and personalized study guides. Study guides cover 5th-12th grade math and science topics, and resources include digital textbooks, animations, instructor videos and more. All resources are vetted and organized by teachers or Gooru's content experts, so you don't have to sort through the mess of subpar educational resources available online yourself.

Gooru also makes it easy for you to connect with your worldwide peers to make learning a social experience. Post questions to an active community of students, teachers and experts, or find friends and peers to study with.

Best of all, Gooru adapts to you. Based on the topics you study and your performance on self-assessments, Gooru suggests resources and study guides that will help you master the concepts. You can track your study habits and monitor your performance on any of the topics you study. <http://www.goorulearning.org/aboutus.php>

### **High School App Development**

There are a number of resources around curriculum for smart phone apps. Most of these curriculum resources are available through: <http://www.microsoft.com/education/facultyconnection/bz/default.aspx?c1=en-bz&c2=BZ>. Some curriculum for teaching development where the development is done on the phone itself can be found at: <http://www.microsoft.com/education/facultyconnection/bz/articles/articledetails.aspx?cid=2436>.

### **Demo on CORD Math Academy**

<http://www.cordmathacademy.com/>

### **New Search Tool for Postsecondary Education Research**

A new online [database](#) from the Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP) and the Lumina Foundation connects users, particularly policy makers and postsecondary education decision makers, with the latest in research on postsecondary education and college success.

The resources available on [PolicyDirect](#) have been vetted by expert fellows from IHEP and Lumina. The Web site prompts users to enter a question or topic related to postsecondary education into a search field. By entering "[career technical education](#)" with the quantitative metric, for example, users have immediate access to nearly 100 reports on the topic.

Each result includes a brief summary of a report and a link to the full article or publication. Users can also sort results by key metrics – qualitative, quantitative, cost effective, scalable, insightful, and enduring- to refine their query and access the most relevant results.

### **Nucleus Platform**

[http://www.nucleusacademic.com/About\\_Us/learningquest\\_platform.php](http://www.nucleusacademic.com/About_Us/learningquest_platform.php)

### **TEXAS 5-STEM Plan**

Attached is an article which may be of interest. By using funds from private, state, and federal funding for costs related to technology, and some funding derived from the [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act](#), they were able to pass out 25,000 Ipads/Ipods.

### **Grant Opportunities**

#### **Advancing Informal STEM Learning**

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=JsfhPDch8Cm3wmtMnY5QT11hNFJKkddXnsMLX4G21T4TDlkgyh04!917914427?oppId=172213&mode=VIEW>.