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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

September 15, 2011

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Sally Vaughn, Ph.D. *Sally*
Deputy Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer

SUBJECT: Michigan Consortium for Educational Research

We have been presented with an opportunity to join one of our research partners, the Michigan Consortium for Educational Research (MCER), in examining the impact of the Michigan Merit Curriculum. As part of this endeavor, I am writing to ask for your help in facilitating this process. Researchers from MCER would like to collect information on the end-of-course assessments used in Michigan high schools. By participating, you would be helping to address a challenge many of us face, creating high quality end of course assessments given constraints in time and resources. To support your efforts to increase students' achievement in the Michigan Merit Exam, these materials once gathered, will be made available as public resources. We expect this project to serve as an excellent opportunity to share quality end-of-course assessments and eliminate time consuming duplication of assessments.

Kri Burkander and Kaitlin Obenauf, two doctoral candidates from Michigan State University currently working with MCER, will be contacting you in the next few weeks about this opportunity. This initiative is entirely voluntary, but I would like to encourage you to participate. I believe that the information that is collected in this study will save your district time and valuable resources.

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