



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT

November 14, 2017

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Nonpublic School Administrators

FROM: Leah Breen, Director *Leah Breen*  
Office of Professional Preparation Services

SUBJECT: Nonpublic District Provided Professional Development Opt-In/Out

Effective January 13, 2015, Michigan Compiled Law (MCL) Section §380.1527 was amended to include the following language:

"A state-approved nonpublic school may provide teacher professional development for nonpublic school teachers. The department shall credit this professional development toward the issuance or renewal of a teaching certificate or endorsement to the same extent as professional development provided by a public school is credited for its teachers for those purposes if the department determines that all of the following are met:

- (a) The professional development provides substantially the same program content as professional development provided by a public school that is credited by the department toward the issuance or renewal of a teaching certificate or endorsement.
- (b) The nonpublic school submits to the same auditing and documentation requirements for professional development as a public school."

Under the amended law, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), Office of Professional Preparation Services (OPPS) can now credit approved District Provided Professional Development (DPPD) toward the progression from the Michigan Standard teaching certificate to the Professional Teaching certificate or the renewal of a Professional Teaching certificate, or administrator certificate, if the DPPD is appropriate to the grade level and endorsement areas for which the educator is certified.

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Before an educator may submit an application that uses DPPD to progress or renew a certificate in accordance with MCL §380.1527, two steps must be completed:

1. The nonpublic school must agree to all auditing and documentation requirements using the [Nonpublic District Provided Professional Development OPT-IN/OUT form](#). ALL nonpublic schools should return a form that indicates the district "opts-in" or "opts-out" of the DPPD auditing requirements.
2. For certificate renewal, the educator must have the [DISTRICT PROVIDED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FORM](#) completed and signed by a District Official. Please refer to the explicit instructions that accompany this form to ensure the District Official is verifying the correct information.

Opt-In/Out forms should be completed and returned to MDE as soon as possible.

Nonpublic school educators will not be able to use DPPD until an Opt-In form is completed and returned by the employing district and the district signs the appropriate District Provided Professional Development Record for Certificate Renewal forms. Additionally, a district must be registered in the Educational Entity Master to qualify as a state-approved school under this provision.

Please share this communication with educators and colleagues who may be impacted by this information. Questions may be directed to the OPPS technical support staff at 517-373-3310 or [MOECSSupport@michigan.gov](mailto:MOECSSupport@michigan.gov).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance