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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

November 3, 2014

MEMORANDUM

To: State Board of Education

From: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman 

Subject: Presentation on Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge

In 2013, Michigan applied for and was one of six states awarded Phase 3 funding from the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) competitive federal grant. Michigan received \$51,737,456 for the purposes of improving early learning in the state. The grant lasts for a period of four years, beginning January 2014 and ending December 2017.

The purpose of the RTT-ELC grant is to support states' efforts in improving learning and development programs for young children. The grant encourages states to improve early childhood systems by: increasing access to high-quality programs for children with high needs; implementing and coordinating an integrated system of programs; and evaluating and rating program quality.

Michigan Department of Education/Office of Great Start was identified as the lead agency for RTT-ELC implementation in Michigan's grant application. Michigan's RTT-ELC project plans identify six priorities: increasing access to high quality programs for children with high needs; promoting social, emotional, and physical health; enhancing the Great Start to Quality System; improving the early childhood workforce; building an early learning data system; and increasing family engagement. To execute these projects, MDE maintains subrecipient relationships with the following partners: Early Childhood Investment Corporation; Department of Community of Health; Department of Human Services; Department of Technology, Management and Budget; and Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children.

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