



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

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April 4, 2014

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman 

SUBJECT: Presentation on Financial Independence Team

The Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2015 proposes a new cross-agency Financial Independence Team (FIT) that will develop and implement an early warning system to identify troubled schools needing assistance. Districts identified by this early warning system will receive targeted, proactive technical assistance. The Departments of Education (MDE) and Treasury and the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) have had initial meetings to begin development of an early warning indicator system that will use existing data to examine financial and enrollment trend data.

Should legislation be enacted, MDE and Treasury will have additional funds for staff and on-site technical assistance. MDE's budget could be increased to support two new staff members in the Office of State Aid and School Finance and two new staff members in the Office of Educational Improvement and Innovation. This cross office MDE team will work collaboratively with Treasury once districts are identified to provide financial and academic assistance including the requirement for a financial preplan and an education plan.

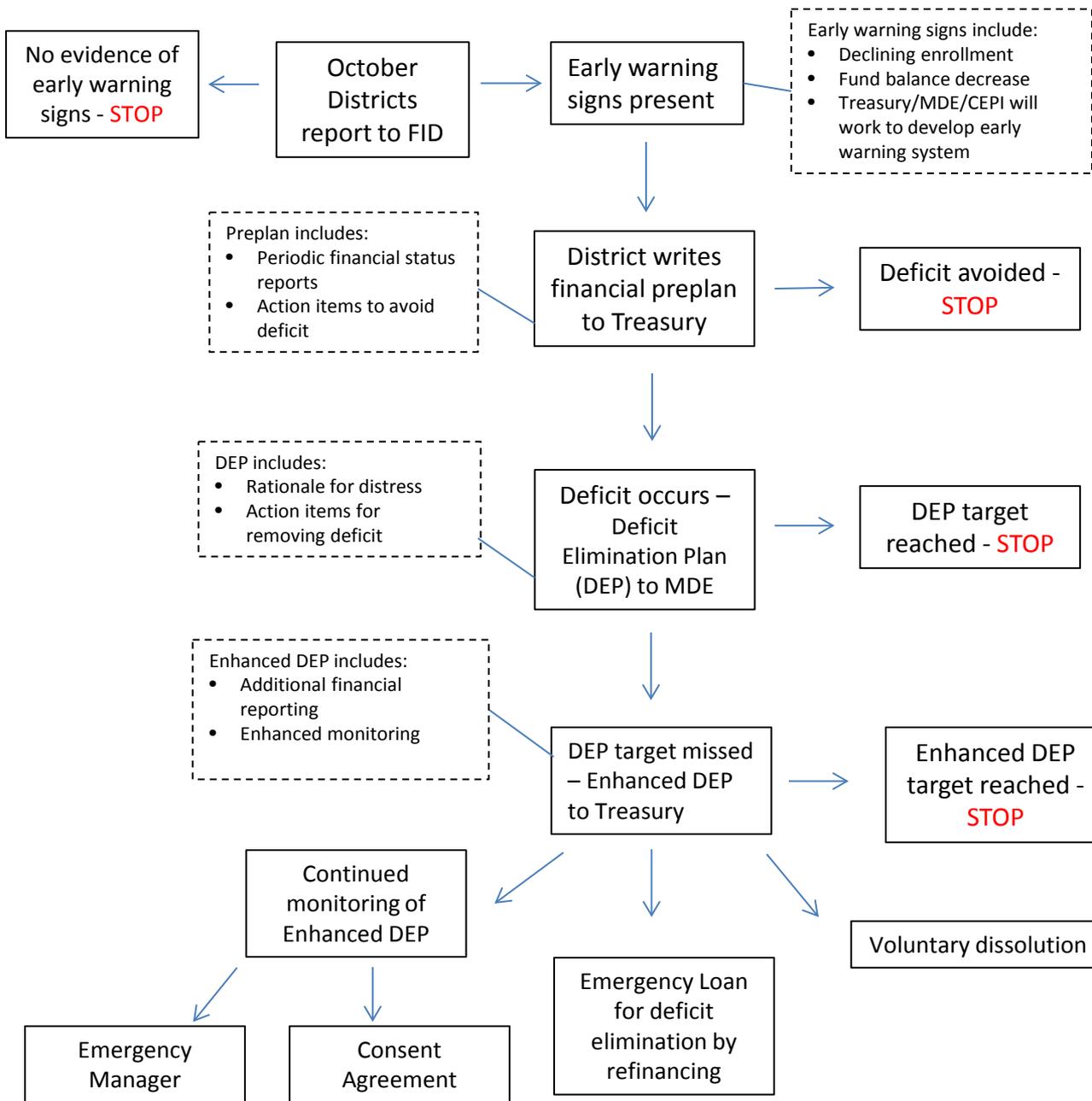
The attached draft flow chart outlines the work of the proposed FIT Team.

Attachment

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