



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

November 3, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Mike Flanagan, Chairman 

SUBJECT: Approval of the *Michigan Core Knowledge and Core Competencies for the Early Care and Education Workforce*

On August 12, 2014, Office of Great Start staff provided the State Board of Education with a preliminary draft of the *Michigan Core Knowledge and Core Competencies for the Early Care and Education Workforce* for comment and discussion before offering the draft for public comment. Four public comments were received from individuals representing the Great Start Readiness Program (Office of Great Start), Mott Community College, the Department of Community Health, and the High Scope Educational Research Foundation. The feedback was positive and included some suggestions for improvement.

Based on public comment, minor wording changes were made:

- To enhance the introduction and potential user information;
- To specify the importance of comprehensive curriculum and of minimizing the number of transitions during the daily routine;
- To include providing opportunities for children to take on leadership roles;
- To address the importance of using multiple means and a variety of strategies to communicate with families;
- To reference the American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Association for the Education of Young Children in the competency that addresses balancing digital learning with human interaction; and
- To spell out the importance of using results obtained with assessment tools to plan for not only individual children, but also for the group as a whole.

Based on public comment, two content additions were incorporated, they were:

- To expand the mathematical competency statement and the respective indicators (Competency J, under Child Development, p. 19.) to make it inclusive of scientific inquiry and reasoning; and
- To address the importance of physical activity in a Health, Safety, and Nutrition competency. This was added to Competency A, p. 69.

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Pending the Board's approval, the next steps for this body of professional standards will include the following:

- Communication and dissemination to the early care and education workforce;
- Aligning professional development offerings to the Core Knowledge and Core Competencies (CKCC);
- Ensuring that the CKCC are integrated within foundational higher education coursework; and
- Updating the accompanying professional development planning tool to reflect the State Board of Education approved CKCC.

Once approved, Michigan will have a body of competencies to guide the early care and education workforce. These professional standards will ensure Michigan's young children birth to five and their families will be served by a highly-qualified workforce and are critical to Michigan's commitment to promoting children's learning and development and improved outcomes and to an enhanced system of professional development.

The *Michigan Core Knowledge and Core Competencies for the Early Care and Education Workforce* document can be found at:

http://www.michigan.gov//documents/mde/MI_CKCC_10-13-14R_471355_7.pdf.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve The *Michigan Core Knowledge and Core Competencies for the Early Care and Education Workforce*, as included in the Superintendent's memorandum dated November 3, 2014.