



# michigan education CONNECTION

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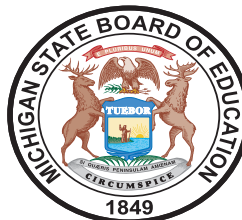
## Catch the Vision

*"Attain substantial and meaningful improvement in academic achievement for all students/children with primary emphasis on high priority schools and students."*

—Michigan State Board of Education Goal

## SBE Goals and Priorities Updated

At its June, 2009 meeting, the Michigan State Board of Education adopted the 2009-10 Goals and Priorities for the Board and Department of Education.



The priorities adopted by the board are:

- Continue to reimagine the pre-K-12 educational system in Michigan that will lead to the State Board of Education's expectation for student achievement.
- Continue to review and improve Michigan's teacher preparation system.
- Continue to advocate and promote high school reform, with an emphasis on relevance, relationships, and implementation.

In addition, this year the Board adopted a priority of its own:

- Develop public/private partnerships including creation of an education foundation to enable fundraising efforts to support State Board of Education/MDE programs and services.

You can view the State Board of Education's Goals and Priorities at the State Board's website:

[2009 – 2010 MDE/SBE Strategic Goal and Priorities.](#)



## FAQs on the ARRA

Now available on the Michigan Department of Education website are Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) documents on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

There are separate FAQs on the following:

- Stabilization FAQs
- Race to the Top (Project Reimagine)/ Innovation What Works
- Title I FAQs
- Title I Recovery Funds
- IDEA FAQs
- IDEA Recovery Funds
- Miscellaneous FAQs

The FAQs will be updated as further guidance is provided by the U.S. Department of Education, so please re-visit the website often.

There also is a document assisting school officials on where to access additional information on implementing ARRA funds.

Link to: [www.michigan.gov/mde-recovery](http://www.michigan.gov/mde-recovery)

## From State Superintendent Mike Flanagan:

### Reaching Out... Before they Drop Out!

Earlier this month, I invited every school district statewide to participate in the Superintendent's Dropout Challenge. Essentially, by schools using existing data they can identify students with high risk factors and provide support to help prevent thousands of students from dropping out.



With one out of every four Michigan children now not graduating with their class, we must begin to turn the tide and think actively to support and engage every student to succeed. I can't think of any reason for all Michigan schools not to participate.

This Dropout Challenge, coupled with our dedicated teacher's efforts statewide, will allow us to lead together and embrace the one true purpose of education, which is putting our children first.

# Superintendent's Dropout Challenge



State Superintendent of Public Instruction Mike Flanagan has announced a statewide [\*Superintendent's Dropout Challenge\*](#) to Michigan's 4,000 public schools that could impact nearly 60,000 students at-risk of dropping out of school. "Today, one out of every four Michigan children fails to graduate with their class," said Flanagan. "This challenge is the first step in helping thousands of Michigan students stay in school."

The challenge draws on research that shows most students send distress signals years before they drop out of school. Early warning signs displayed by students nearing or entering transitional school years, such as 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th grades or beyond, have been proven to be strong dropout predictors.

Each Michigan school committing to the Dropout Challenge will be asked to use their existing student achievement, retention, attendance and behavior data to identify 10-15 students with multiple early warning dropout signs and provide appropriate research-based supports and interventions. The challenge also could help these schools meet federal Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) requirements under No Child Left Behind and engage both parents and the community in participating in a comprehensive dropout solution.

Michigan's *Superintendent's Dropout Challenge* has received accolades from the nation's premier advocate addressing the dropout dilemma – America's Promise Alliance, a cross-sector partnership of more than 300 corporations, nonprofits, faith-based organizations and advocacy groups that are passionate about improving lives and changing outcomes for children.

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) will partner with school districts and education associations across the state to provide a variety of professional development opportunities to administrators and teachers in how to use existing data, resources and supports to reduce the number of dropouts.

All Superintendent's Dropout Challenge schools will be invited to submit information to the MDE on their Dropout Challenge efforts and student progress in spring 2010. Buildings that demonstrate the most student progress will be part of a special recognition and awards program.

Commit to the Superintendent's Challenge by registering online at [www.mi.gov/dropoutchallenge](http://www.mi.gov/dropoutchallenge).

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## Michigan 'Meets Requirements' of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) 2004

The U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) has issued a determination of 'Meets Requirements' of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) 2004 to the state of Michigan. This federal report card reflects the improved systems integration and coordination of efforts of the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services (MDE, OSE-EIS) and its Mandated Activities Projects (MAPs).

This is the third year of federal implementation of issuing determinations to states. The IDEA 2004 requires the annual submission of a state's Annual Performance Report (APR) and a revised State Performance Plan (SPP). For more information on Michigan's APR and SPP, please visit the related link listed below.

Related Link— Michigan Department of Education's APR and SPP Information:  
<http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140--214724--,00.html>.

## 2010 OAH TACHAU TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Organization of American Historians sponsors an annual award to recognize the contributions made by precollegiate or classroom teachers to improve history education. The award, to be given for activities which enhance the intellectual development of other history teachers and/or students, memorializes the career of Mary K. Bonsteel Tachau, University of Louisville, for her pathbreaking efforts to build bridges between university and precollegiate history teachers.

AWARD: The successful candidate will receive a one-year OAH membership, a one-year subscription to the OAH Magazine of History, and a complimentary registration for the annual meeting. If the winner is an OAH member, the award will include a one-year renewal of membership in the awardee's usual membership category. The winner's school will receive a certificate.

For criteria information, please visit: <http://oah.org/activities/awards/tachau/index.html>

# Michigan Education Technology Standards and Expectations - 2009 Updates

In June of 2005, the State Board of Education (SBE) approved the current Michigan Educational Technology Standards and Expectations (METS). These standards were based on, and aligned with, the International Society for Technology in Education's (ISTE) National Educational Technology Standards for Students (NETS-S). In 2007, ISTE revised the national standards to better identify the knowledge and skills that students need to possess in order to succeed in today's digital age. Soon after ISTE published their updated version of the NETS-S, local districts began inquiring as to when Michigan would begin the process of bringing the existing METS-S into closer alignment with the revised national standards.

Rather than simply adopting the ISTE standards, Michigan opted to create its own standards (based on the 2007 NETS-S) which offered some clarification to and specific suggestions on what technology skills are expected from our students. Michigan educators have utilized the METS-S to assist them with integrating technology into their curriculum and districts have referenced the METS-S when assessing the technology proficiency levels of their students.



Stakeholders statewide are invited to review and comment on the draft standards, which were presented to the SBE on June 9. Links to each of the grade-level standard surveys are posted at: <http://www.techplan.org/METS> and will be available until August 12. Please take advantage of this opportunity to comment on these draft standards and expectations.

## 2009 MIWLA Fall Conference

The Michigan World Language Association (MIWLA) has announced its 2009 Fall Conference. This event kicks off with a Administrators' Breakfast being held at the Causeway Bay Hotel (formerly Holiday Inn South) in Lansing on Oct. 16, 2009 from 7:30-9:00 a.m. Irma Torres, world languages consultant for Oakland County, and Jenny Frazier, immediate past president of the Michigan World Language Association, will be the keynote speakers. Irma and Jenny will share information regarding the upcoming high school graduation requirement of two years of a world language. They will also discuss strategies for implementing a world language program in the elementary school setting.



This Administrators' Breakfast will be held as part of the Michigan World Language Association Fall Conference. The MIWLA also is hosting a conference luncheon that afternoon, which will include a distribution of awards to outstanding world language educators in our state. From 1:00-3:00 they will be hosting a Language Summit. At this Summit, leaders in government, business, and education will come together to discuss the role of world languages in their work places as well as ways in which business, education, and government can work together to ensure excellence in Michigan's K-12 schools.

For registration information, please RSVP to Laura Nork, event coordinator, at [LNork10245@aol.com](mailto:LNork10245@aol.com). All responses must be received by September 20, 2009.

*Long-range goals keep you from being frustrated by short-term failures.*

*~ James Cash Penney*

### **Michigan Project ReImagine Webinar Archived!**

On June 30, the Michigan Department of Education partnered with Learning Point Associates to host a 90 minute webinar to generate ideas and strategies to significantly improve teaching and learning in Michigan. Panelists, including Mike Flanagan, discussed how to promote entrepreneurial thinking and system-wide educational reforms with 250 participants interested in submitting a proposal to be considered for demonstration district status.

[Please click here](#) to find the archive video of the event and supporting documents.

Be sure to also check out the Project ReImagine website at <http://www.michigan.gov/mde> for additional information and support.

## MI-LIFE cohort 3 begins Fall 2009

The MI-LIFE Program has been providing a valuable professional learning opportunity for over 500 school administrators in Michigan. Because of the success of the program and based on evaluations and feedback from those who have participated in the first two cohorts, a third cohort of MI-LIFE will be offered beginning in October 2009 through May 2010.

The program will consist of six face-to-face sessions and one online course with intersession assignments between the face-to-face sessions and will be conducted at seven different locations around the state.

- Wayne RESA
- Macomb ISD
- Genesee ISD
- Muskegon Area ISD
- Calhoun ISD
- Wexford-Missaukee ISD
- MEMSPA Building (Holt)

Successful completion in the program can result in 10 SBCEUs or approved University credits and, if eligible, an administrator endorsement.

The fee to participate in the entire MI-LIFE program is \$1000 plus a small fee for processing SBCEUs if desired. (Endorsement applications are handled by the administrator professional associations and the Michigan Department of Education and the process for obtaining an endorsement may include additional fees.)

Top 10 Reasons to Apply:

- Learn 21st century leadership skills—using 21st century tools and technology.
- Participate in the latest research-based professional learning program.
- Collaborate in a statewide professional learning community.
- Earn an approved MDE/MI-LIFE Endorsement, if eligible.
- Obtain 10 SBCEUs for successfully completing the entire program.
- Gain university credits.
- Use your district/school's stimulus or Title I funds for funding.
- Attend programs at convenient locations.
- Integrate face-to-face and online sessions.
- Discover how a small commitment of time can result in a large commitment to learning.

For complete information about the curriculum, courses, and schedule and to access the online application, visit the MI-LIFE web site at [www.mi-life.org/participant3.htm](http://www.mi-life.org/participant3.htm).

Eligibility: Participants must be current ISD, diocese, district, or building level administrators in public, non-public, or charter schools.

Selection Process: Once the application period has closed, those selected to participate in this third cohort will be notified of their acceptance and provided with specific registration information to complete before August 15. Participant selection will be based on a number of factors including, but not limited to, eligibility, position, program location selection, membership in partner associations, and high priority status.



# Michigan LearnPort® Announces Stipend Opportunities For Online Professional Development



Michigan LearnPort® is the statewide professional development portal developed through a partnership between Michigan Virtual University® (MVU®) and the Michigan Department of Education (MDE). To encourage teachers, administrators and other instructional personnel to experience the value and effective nature of online learning first-hand, Michigan Virtual University is offering \$150 stipends for enrolling in and completing selected curriculum content courses and requirements through Michigan LearnPort.

Enrollment is now open and limited to the first 30 participants for each section. The goal is to meet the needs of ISDs and their constituent districts, professional organizations and individual educators through expanding the use of Michigan LearnPort.

The courses for which stipends will be provided are the following:

- MMC Algebra 1 for Teachers
- MMC Algebra 2 for Teachers
- MMC Geometry for Teachers
- MMC English Language Arts for Teachers
- MMC Biology for Teachers
- MMC Chemistry for Teachers
- MMC Physics for Teachers
- MMC World History and Geography for Teachers
- MMC U.S. History and Geography for Teachers

These courses are instructor-led and provide teachers with resources and strategies to meet the needs of the diverse students required to meet the Michigan Merit Curriculum. Upon completion, participants will earn between 1 – 3.5 State Board Continuing Education Units (SB-CEU).

Eligibility for the stipend requires completion of the course and the submission of one lesson plan using one or more of the strategies or activities described in the course. This lesson plan must be accepted by the course instructor as part of the course completion requirements. This lesson plan may become a resource for Michigan teachers through Michigan LearnPort.

Teachers must apply for the stipend after completion of the course on the course form provided by the instructor or downloadable from the course community room. This stipend is paid from and governed by requirements of and provided through ESEA Title II, Part (A) funds. Payment will only be made for full course completion and submission of an accepted lesson plan. A course session will be offered beginning August 1, 2009. An individual may only take one course under the stipend program each session.

Interested educators who wish to enroll in one of the online courses should log into Michigan LearnPort®, <http://www.learnport.org>, and search for the keyword “MMC” in the Courses Catalog. Specific course content details are available in a syllabus embedded in each course, accessible by clicking on a course’s information icon in the Catalog. For more information about the Michigan LearnPort 2009 Online Stipend Program, please contact [eelliott@mivu.org](mailto:eelliott@mivu.org).

## 2009 Special Education Directory Available

An updated version of the Michigan Directory of Service Providers for Infants, Toddlers, and Students with Disabilities is now available on the [Center for Educational Networking Web site](#). You can download the complete directory or specific sections in a PDF format.

The directory is intended for parents, educators, and other service providers seeking resource information related to the educational needs of children, students, and clients. The directory contains contact information about resources for children ages birth to three with special needs and their families (Michigan’s Early On® population) and students ages 3-26 with disabilities.

Listings include special education and Early On administrative personnel in local and intermediate schools districts (ISDs), specialized schools, and public school academies (charter schools). The directory is not meant to be a comprehensive list of all personnel, but instead provides basic contact information for administrators and others who provide services to infants, toddlers, and students with disabilities.

The directory also contains contact information for the Michigan Department of Education, Michigan Department of Corrections, Michigan Department of Community Health, Michigan Department of Human Services, Michigan local public health departments, neonatal intensive care units, and Michigan and national agencies, associations, and organizations.



## Free computer recycling from Apple.

Just for schools, and just for now.

Computers contain hazardous materials that can make them regulated hazardous waste when disposed. It is illegal for anyone who is not a resident/homeowner/etc. to throw out hazardous waste in their trash over a certain amount, 220 lbs./month, in general. Old computers usually weigh about 50 lbs. each so a school would have to make sure they don't throw out more than 4 in one month's time. This opportunity, from Apple, for schools to recycle their old equipment is for a limited time so please act fast!!

This summer, Apple will recycle your school's old, unwanted Mac computers, PCs, and qualifying peripherals from any manufacturer—for free. There's no purchase required, and all accredited K-12 and higher education institutions with **at least** 25 pieces\* of recyclables are eligible to participate. Just register in time, follow the steps, and we'll do the rest.

### How the recycling works

To take advantage of this opportunity, you'll need to register by July 31, 2009. All products must be packaged according to the [instructions](#) and collected by August 31, 2009. Remember, you must recycle a minimum of 25 pieces\* in order to participate.

In addition to the 25 pieces, Apple will accept all brands of the following equipment: computers, monitors, laptops, printers, fax machines, scanners, desktop-size copy machines, CD drives, hard drives, TVs, VCRs, projectors, overhead projectors, networking equipment, cables, keyboards, and mice.

To register for the program, you may:

1. Fill out the [online form](#). An Apple representative will contact you within three business days to coordinate the pickup.
2. Call **1-800-APPLE-LN (1-800-277-5356)** to speak with a representative.



## High School Writing and Math Scores Improve on Michigan Merit Exam

High school writing and math scores have shown an increase, according to results for the Michigan Merit Exam (MME) released today by the Michigan Department of Education. High school juniors were tested this past spring on the MME, which includes the college entrance exam, the ACT Plus Writing®.



Over the past three years, the percentage of Michigan public school 11th graders who scored at the proficient or advanced levels in writing improved from 40 percent in 2007, to 41 percent in 2008, to 44 percent in 2009.

Math scores increased from 46 percent last year to 49 percent this year. Scores for other subjects over the past three years were virtually unchanged.

Included in the MME is the ACT college entrance exam. Michigan students who earned college reportable ACT scores as part of the state test had an average composite score of 19.0, which was up slightly from the 18.8 composite score for students taking the test in the previous two years.

The Michigan Merit Exam is given each spring to Michigan 11th grade students. Completing the MME makes the student eligible for the \$4,000 Michigan Promise scholarship, administered by the Michigan Department of Treasury.

To view or download summary data about an entire school or district, please visit: [www.michigan.gov/mme](http://www.michigan.gov/mme).

## It's About Us - Census in Schools Program



The 2010 Census — a count of everyone living in the United States — is fast approaching! Census questionnaires will be mailed or delivered to every household in the United States in March 2010.

The U.S. Census Bureau has created a Census in Schools program called 2010 Census: It's About Us. The program will provide educators with resources to teach the nation's students about the importance of the census so children can help deliver this message to their families. The program will engage America's youth to help ensure every child and every household member is counted in 2010.

Lessons are designed to:

- Familiarize students with the census questionnaire.
- Help children build map literacy by teaching students how to read different kinds of maps and how to create their own maps.
- Immerse students in census data and encourage them to collect data on their own.
- Challenge students to get to know their communities and think about community needs.
- Make it easy for educators to include the materials in their lesson plans.

Please contact Ms. Renee Jefferson-Copeland, Chief of the Census in Schools program, if you would like additional information at (301) 763-6676, or by email at [renee.jeffersoncopeland@census.gov](mailto:renee.jeffersoncopeland@census.gov).

## High Performing, Inclusive Secondary Schools: A Leadership Institute



The Inclusive Schools Organization proudly offers a two-day conference: **"High Performing, Inclusive Secondary Schools: A Leadership Institute,"** specifically designed for teams of general and special educators involved with inclusive education in grades 6 - 12. The institute with Dr. Lisa Dieker, will be held August 20-21, 2009, at the Education Development Center, Newton, Massachusetts, with an online follow-up opportunity in the Fall. Dr. Lisa Dieker is an Associate Professor and Lockheed Martin Eminent Scholar at the University of Central Florida. Her primary area of research focuses on collaboration between general and special education at the secondary level.

The program commences with a two-day summer institute and concludes with an online follow-up opportunity in the fall, resulting in team developed action plans. During the summer institute, participants will engage in lectures, learning activities, and action planning sessions. Content will build on knowledge and skills in effective strategies for inclusion at the secondary level and leadership development. Participants will complete action steps between the summer and the fall follow-up session and have the opportunity to share successes and problem-solve with faculty and peers. The follow-up session in the fall will include webinar discussion opportunities through the Inclusive Schools Network.

To register, please visit [www.inclusiveschools.org](http://www.inclusiveschools.org). Space is limited - registrations accepted on a first come first serve basis.

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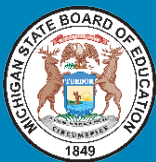
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## ON THE HORIZON...

### - Near Future

[2009 MCTM Annual Conference & Institute](#), August 6-7, 2009

[State Board of Education Meeting](#), August 11, 2009

[Differentiated Instruction Conference](#), August 12-13, 2009

[Michigan Teaching for Learning Institute](#), August 18-20, 2009

[2009 Assessment & Accountability Conference](#), Aug. 25, 2009

### - Distant Future

[State Board of Education Meeting](#), September 8, 2009

[2009 Homeless Education Conference](#), Sept. 13-15, 2009

[One Common Voice–One Plan Conf.](#), September 15-17, 2009

[2009 Assessment & Accountability Conference](#), Sept. 21 & 28

[2009 MASA Fall Conference](#), September 22-25, 2009

[MDE/MSBO Workshop](#), October 20, 2009

[MI Council of Teachers of English Fall Assembly](#), Oct. 30 2009

[23rd Annual Support Staff Conference](#), November 5-6, 2009

[2009 MSPRA Conference](#), November 5-6, 2009

[MEMSPA 84th Annual State Conference](#), December 2-4, 2009

