



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



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GOVERNOR

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SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

November 30, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents and Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Carol Wolenberg, Deputy Superintendent *aw*

SUBJECT: Teacher Professional Development Time

This is to advise that the new language in Section 101(10) of the State School Aid Act which requires local districts and public school academies to provide 5 online hours of professional development in order to count up to 38 hours of professional development towards the minimum requirement of 1,098 hours of instruction is not effective until the school year 2010-2011. Although the language of the act indicates that it is effective for the 2009-2010 (current) fiscal year, the Department has received confirmation from the legislature that their intent is to have the requirement effective with the 2010-2011 year. To reiterate, districts will be able to count up to 38 hours of professional development in lieu of instruction for the 2009-2010 school year even if none of the hours were provided online. Districts will not be able to count any professional development hours in lieu of instruction for the 2010-2011 school year unless at least 5 of the hours are provided online.

All other requirements of Section 101 related to professional development, including that the professional development meets at least one of the criteria below, must also be met in order for the time to be counted in lieu of instruction.

- (a) Achieving or improving adequate yearly progress as defined under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Public Law 107-110.
- (b) Achieving accreditation or improving a school's accreditation status under Section 1280 of the Revised School Code, MCL 380.1280.
- (c) Achieving highly qualified teacher status as defined under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Public Law 107-110.
- (d) Maintaining teacher certification.

Also, the law stipulates that to be counted the online professional development must originate from the Michigan Virtual University or another Department-approved intermediate school district (ISD). All ISDs are currently approved by the Department to provide this professional development. Guidelines related to the online professional development will be sent under a separate cover.

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Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
and Public School Academy Directors
November 30, 2009
Page 2

If you have any questions regarding counting professional development time as instruction, please feel free to contact Joellen Wonsey at WonseyJ@Michigan.gov or (517) 373-3350. Other questions pertaining to professional development should be directed to Donna Hamilton at HamiltonD3@Michigan.gov or (517) 241-4544.

cc: William Mayes, MASA
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