



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



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SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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August 28, 2008

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

FROM: Carol Wolenberg, Deputy Superintendent *Carol*

SUBJECT: Required Certifications

The purpose of this notice is to provide you with information regarding the submission procedure for certifying your district's compliance for constitutionally protected prayer, eye protective devices, and Constitution Day. All certifications are due **September 25, 2008**.

**Constitutionally Protected Prayer**

The U.S. Department of Education (USED) requires that each local or intermediate school district or public school academy, as a condition of receiving funds under any portion of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB), annually certify, to the state agency, that it has no policy that prevents, or otherwise denies participation in, constitutionally protected prayer in public schools.

MDE is required by November 1, 2008, to provide the USED a list of all districts not providing MDE with this certification. A district's failure to submit the required certification may result in the district's loss of funding under NCLB.

**Eye Protective Devices**

State law requires all public schools and public school academies are required to provide adequate eye protective devices for students enrolled in courses where danger to the eye exists [MCL 380.1288]. Administrative Code Rules governing Eye Protective Devices require that all public schools and public school academies certify compliance with this requirement. Questions regarding this program may be directed to Carol Easlick at 517-373-0764 or EaslickC@michigan.gov.

**Constitution Day**

Public Law 108-447 requires all educational institutions receiving Federal funds to hold an educational program on the United States Constitution on September 17<sup>th</sup> for the students served by the educational institution. Questions regarding this program may be directed to Karen R. Todorov at 517-373-2893 or todorok@michigan.gov.

**Each district must submit all three certifications** through Michigan Electronic Grants System (MEGS). **NOTE: Individual school buildings DO NOT have to certify in MEGS.** The instructions are as follows:

- Authorized Officials (Level 5) log into MEGS.
- On the Main Menu select "**Additional Functions**," click on "**Certification Menu**." (Note: only Level 5s can see this selection).
- Within the "**Certification Menu**," click on the specific certification.
- Read and verify the statement by using the "**I Agree**" button.

The MEGS submission outlined above will meet the requirements of the statutes. Questions regarding this electronic process may be directed to Grants Administration and Coordination at 517-373-1806.

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