



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 16, 2016

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

FROM: Venessa A. Keesler, Ph.D. *V. Keesler*
Deputy Superintendent, Division of Educator, Student, and School
Supports

SUBJECT: Requirements for Placement of Highly Qualified Teachers for the
2016-2017 Academic Year

On December 10, 2015, President Obama signed the bipartisan Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). The reauthorized law prioritizes excellence and equity for our students and supports great educators.

Many provisions of the ESSA are effective beginning in the academic year 2016-2017, including elimination of the Federal Provisions for Highly Qualified Educators. **This memo serves as notice that the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) will maintain all Michigan requirements for placement of Highly Qualified teachers for the 2016-2017 academic year.** Michigan's requirements reflect the former federal requirements.

The MDE does understand that some districts struggle to meet staffing needs and therefore will be releasing guidelines for districts who need support in staffing positions. Within the next few weeks, a communication will be distributed to local educational agencies (LEAs) in Michigan outlining new opportunities for districts to fill positions.

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Additionally, during the 2016-2017 academic year, stakeholder groups will be established in order to develop new guidelines for appropriate placement of teachers. Although we will not be able to accommodate all requests, individuals interested in participating in this effort should complete a request using the following survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/highlyqualified>. There will also be a later opportunity for open public review and comment.

Please look for further guidance around substitute permits and flexibility for ensuring that all students have qualified educators in front of them each day.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Krista Ried at riedk@michigan.gov or Vic Bugni at bugniv@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance