



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 6, 2015

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

FROM: Kyle Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent *KG*

SUBJECT: Section 21f - Online Courses

Section 21f of the State School Aid Act provides language pertaining to online courses taken by pupils and counted towards a State School Aid Full Time Equivalency (FTE). An online course is defined in Section 21f as a course in which the pupil is separated from the teacher by time or location or both.

Section 21f also states the district of residence pays for the online course, provides a mentor teacher, can deny enrollment for certain reasons, provides technology, grants credits, etc., for Section 21f courses/pupils.

However, Section 6(4)(ee) of the State School Aid Act states that, a pupil participating in an online course under Section 21f shall be counted in membership in the district enrolling the pupil.

The Section 21f language and the Section 6(4)(ee) language combined creates a disconnect when the enrolling district is not the district of residence. For example, the enrolling district would receive the school aid, but the resident district would be required to pay for the class.

Therefore, the Department will seek a language change. In the meantime, the Department will assume the authority granted to the resident district under Section 21f is granted to the "enrolling district" in cases where the enrolling district is not the district of residence.

Question may be directed to Brian Ciloski at CiloskiB@michigan.gov or (517) 373-3352.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

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