

Dear Early Childhood Partner:

As you may be aware, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is soliciting names for a Deputy Superintendent to lead the newly formed Office of Great Start. A position description has been posted at: <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/michigan/default.cfm?action=viewJob&jobID=347025>. Our goal at MDE is to secure an individual of the highest caliber to lead this incredible opportunity for reform and innovation, in service to our youngest children.

The MDE is conducting both a national and in-state search for this position. Key early childhood organizations and leaders both in Michigan and from across the country, have received our information and are actively engaged in helping us identify potential candidates.

Unfortunately, it has come to my attention that there is a rumor circulating that the candidate for this position already has been determined. Our national partners have let us know that they are hearing this rumor from their Michigan friends. I want to assure you, nothing could be further from the truth.

I am committed to conducting an open search, interview and selection process. Two different groups of state and local, public and private stakeholders have been identified to assist with the screening and interview process for candidates. The interview committee will recommend two finalists to me, and then I will make the final selection.

For the Office of Great Start to realize its full potential it needs a dynamic, visionary and effective leader; a leader who will not only build on the great work already underway in Michigan but also take it to the next level. We ask for your assistance in encouraging such leaders to apply for this position.

To ensure that we have this type of leader, **we are extending the application period for the Deputy Superintendent position to August 26, 2011.**

We have tried to share this communication with all of the relevant parties; we may have inadvertently missed someone, so please feel free to share this with others if you think they will be interested.

Sincerely,



Mike Flanagan
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
Michigan Department of Education
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