



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** April 9, 2020

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

**FROM:** Michael F. Rice, Ph.D., State Superintendent 

**SUBJECT:** Waiver of Required District Professional Learning and Professional Learning Hours Required for Certificate Renewal and Progression in Response to Executive Order 2020-35

[Executive Order 2020-35](#) (EO 2020-35) Sections VIII (F) and (G) waive strict compliance with rules and procedures under MCL 380.1526 and 1527. This means:

1. The requirement for any teacher within his or her third year of employment to receive at least 15 days of professional development within the teacher's first three years of employment if the requirement could not be completed due to COVID-19 or accompanying response efforts has been waived.
2. The requirement for a district to provide five days of teacher professional development for the 2019-2020 school year has been waived.

Acknowledging Section VII of EO 2020-35 waives strict compliance with rules and procedures to allow for response efforts prompted by the COVID-19 state of emergency and/or state of disaster, the following amendments to Administrative Rules are enacted:

1. The total number of hours required for renewal for educator credentials expiring June 30, 2020 is reduced from 150 to 120 hours. This ensures that educators who were unable to participate in scheduled district provided professional learning due to the COVID-19 emergency may still renew or progress toward certificates and licenses.

Neither EO 2020-35 nor this memo waives future requirements for professional learning required to renew or progress toward an educator credential.

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The Michigan Department of Education is working diligently to determine how best to change procedures to implement these directives. The mechanisms to allow individuals with credentials expiring June 30, 2020 with reduced professional learning hours will take time to enact. More information about the process will be provided to affected counselors when it becomes available.

**Please share this information with individuals with credentials expiring June 30, 2020, and encourage all educators to ensure that their email address is up-to-date in the [Michigan Online Educator Certification System](#). Information directly related to an educator's certification will be distributed using that email address.**

Please contact [MDE-EducatorHelp@michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-EducatorHelp@michigan.gov) if you have questions.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance