



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** December 15, 2020

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

**FROM:** Kyle L. Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent *KG*  
Finance and Operations

**SUBJECT:** *ENGAGE Michigan* Attendance Recovery Program –  
MEMO #COVID-19-145

In recent months, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has forwarded [communications](#) related to the growing concerns nationally regarding children insufficiently engaged with or missing from our schools during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As schools progress through the 2020-21 school year, it is imperative that the needs are addressed of Michigan students who may be fully or partially disengaged from their education, or who are struggling academically. To assist districts, students and families, the Michigan legislature appropriated \$2 million (MCL 388.1625i) for Graduation Alliance to expand its existing program in the state that helps re-engage K-12 students, which is named *ENGAGE Michigan*.

The *ENGAGE Michigan* program brings an experienced student outreach and coaching team to

- reach students who have disengaged during the transition to remote learning;
- identify and mitigate the obstacles preventing engagement;
- provide the services of a personal academic coach to help the student learn the skills necessary to succeed in the remote learning environment and connect, as necessary, with local resources;
- monitor the student's pace and progress throughout the school year; and
- provide the support that the student needs to stay engaged and to ensure that the student continues learning and earning credit toward graduation.

This program is being offered to all public schools. Space is limited, and districts must choose to participate. To do so, visit [EngageMI.GraduationAlliance.com](https://EngageMI.GraduationAlliance.com). Districts will need to identify a primary contact and an estimate of the number of students who have not engaged in learning or of those who would otherwise benefit from *ENGAGE Michigan*.

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Upon selection, a Graduation Alliance representative will contact the district with information about the program.

For questions and information regarding *ENGAGE Michigan*, please contact Carolyn Taylor at [Carolyn.taylor@graducationalliance.com](mailto:Carolyn.taylor@graducationalliance.com).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance  
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors