

Table of Contents

Superintendent's Message

State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Mike Flanagan asks educators to keep the wheels turning this summer.

Front page

Michigan Teacher of the Year Announced

A CTE teacher from Oakland Schools Technical Campus Southeast was named MTOY.

Page 2

MEAP Access reintroduced Fall 2011

Redesigned to better reflect instruction and student's skills

Page 5



Find us on Facebook



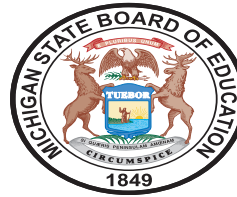
Catch the Vision

"Significant and meaningful improvement in the academic performance of all students/children with major emphasis on the persistently lowest achieving schools and students."

—Michigan State Board of Education Goal

SBE Supports Governor Education Reform

The State Board of Education welcomes Governor Rick Snyder's leadership in making thoughtful education improvement and reform a priority, and is pleased with his outreach to, and welcoming of, the advice of the State Board and the Superintendent of Public Instruction.



The State Board unanimously approved a resolution commending the Governor's Special Message on Education Reform at their May meeting. Board President John C. Austin noted that the Governor's Message incorporates many of the recommendations made to Snyder and the Legislature by the State Board of Education in February.

In the resolution, the State Board and Michigan Department of Education stated their commitment "to fulfilling our Constitutional responsibility to lead education policy, and fully implement the education improvement agenda in these and other areas where we find common ground, and look forward to further collaboration in this important work."

Beating the Odds

There are real success stories in Michigan school buildings that are considered by some to have traditional barriers to academic achievement, the Michigan Department of Education recently reported.

Over 100 schools in Michigan are finding ways to overcome the identifiable risk factors to low student achievement, such as low economic status, race and ethnicity, or proficiency with the English language.

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) conducted two separate studies to identify schools that are "Beating the Odds."

The schools represent districts from across the spectrum of the state, from large urban districts, to suburban, and remote rural schools. Many of the "Beating the Odds" schools said that their use of student testing data to inform instruction, and having strong community support for high standards and accountability as the key reasons behind their success.

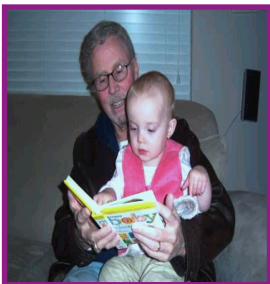
This is the first-time this type of meaningful information has been released and is part of the Michigan Department of Education's continuing commitment to bring "Light of Day" to school data and information to help improve elementary and secondary education.

The public can go to <http://www.michigan.gov/BeatingtheOdds> to find more information on schools that are Beating the Odds including a PowerPoint profiling the 20 schools identified in both studies.

From State Superintendent Mike Flanagan:

Constructive Summer

Summer is quickly approaching, and with it, school bells across the state are ringing for the final time on the 2010-11 school year. Let me take this opportunity to thank all of our educators for their hard work and dedication this school year. I'm so proud to be associated with you.



As we all take time this summer to continue learning on our own to improve personal and professional skills, it also can be a time to consider how we can give educators and students the flexibility and tools they need to succeed in the future. With the new technologies available to us, we all need to focus on how we take away the old barriers to teaching and learning.

There is real opportunity within our reach. Governor Snyder, the State Board of Education and I gave a new vision for education in Michigan that allows us to look forward and release the past.

Michigan's great educators will be instrumental in shaping a new system that is both flexible and innovative, and will allow Michigan's students to succeed - including my granddaughter Ella, who I am reading to in the picture above.

Michigan Teacher of the Year Announced



*2011 Michigan Teacher of the Year,
Paul Galbenski*

Paul Galbenski was named 2011-2012 Michigan Teacher of the Year (MTOY) in a surprise announcement recently by Superintendent of Public Instruction Mike Flanagan. Galbenski, an instructor at Oakland Schools Technical Campus Southeast in Royal Oak with over 19 years of classroom experience, was selected from among 16 regional semifinalists statewide. He is the first Career and Technical educator to receive the honor of being named Michigan Teacher of the Year.

Flanagan congratulated Galbenski on this recognition, saying, "Great teachers not only prepare students for college but also for careers. Paul is an outstanding example of our Michigan teachers and understands this important connection. He also believes teachers are leaders not only within their classroom, but in their district and within

the community. We look forward to his continued contributions to teaching and learning."

Flanagan noted that Galbenski will carry on the valued tradition of Michigan Teachers of the Year who have shared their teaching knowledge, expertise, and skills with educators across the state.

"I feel my greatest accomplishment in education is engaging and working with students on a personal level as they are preparing for post-secondary education or employment," Galbenski said. "In my eyes, being able to build a trusting relationship with students is one of the greatest accomplishments a teacher can experience."



*Superintendent Flanagan congratulating
MTOY Paul Galbenski*



*Superintendent Flanagan, State Board members:
Richard Zeile, Kathleen Strauss, Marianne Yared
McGuire, MTOY Paul Galbenski*

Through the corporate support of MEEMIC Insurance Company, Oakland Schools Technical Campus Southeast will receive a monetary award of \$1,000 in honor of Mr. Galbenski's recognition as Michigan Teacher of the Year to be used for the advancement of education. Also, Galbenski will receive the use of a car during his tenure as MTOY, and a leather briefcase. The corporate support agreement between the Michigan Department of Education and MEEMIC Insurance Company also includes a monetary award to be presented to the schools of each of the MTOY finalists.

The other educators selected as state-level finalists for the Michigan Teacher of the Year Award are:

- Melody Perrin, special education teacher at Keith Bovenschen School, Macomb ISD
- Jerald Czarnecki – mathematics teacher at Kelloggsville High School, Kelloggsville Public Schools

For additional information on the Michigan Teacher of the Year program, access www.michigan.gov/mtoy.



*Michigan Teacher of the Year Paul Galbenski celebrating the
announcement with parents and family*



Alec Baldwin and his fourth grade teacher
Bernice Bard Hoffman

“Behind Every Famous Person Is a Fabulous Teacher”

TeachersCount is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to raise the status of the teaching profession and provide resources to the education community. Using a public service announcement national ad campaign and related initiatives, TeachersCount is working to create a permanent culture of teacher appreciation in the United States.

TeachersCount's most visible program is the “[Behind Every Famous Person is a Fabulous Teacher](#)” Campaign—which began as a series of print public service announcements in the Time Inc. family of magazines. Each ad features a celebrity and his or her teacher, along with a few uplifting words about teaching. In October, 2006, First Lady Laura Bush, who posed for an ad with her favorite teacher, spoke at the official launch of the campaign in New York City. Since then other famous faces include actor America Ferrera, musician Carrie Underwood, NFL legend Steve Young, and many others. Due to a large number of requests from teachers, the campaign was expanded in 2008 and [poster versions of the ads were created](#).

In addition to working to raise the status of the teaching profession, TeachersCount also provides resources to the education community, primarily via their website. Lesson plans, information about professional development, teacher appreciation ideas, education news, editorial features, resources for prospective teachers, and a retail savings program are just a few examples of the many free resources on [TeachersCount.org](#).

Announcing the Bureau of Assessment & Accountability

We are pleased to announce that the Office of Educational Assessment & Accountability (OEAA) has been reorganized as the **Bureau of Assessment & Accountability (BAA)**, with Joseph Martineau as the Executive Director.

Three offices have been created within the new Bureau of Assessment & Accountability:

- **Office of Assessment Business Operations (OABO)**
- **Office of Psychometrics, Accountability, Research, & Evaluation (OPARE)**
- **Office of Standards & Assessment (OSA)**

All standards and assessment functions are consolidated within the new OSA, under the direction of Vincent Dean. All accountability, psychometric, research, evaluation, and data management functions have been consolidated within the new OPARE, under the direction of David Judd. All BAA contract, finance, composition, and professional development functions have been consolidated within the new OABO, under the direction of Marilyn Roberts.

What does this change mean for schools/districts?

This reorganization should have little or no impact on schools and districts. In other words, everything will remain “business as usual.” However, schools will notice the transition over to the new bureau/office names in the coming weeks. Notably, the main email address and website address will be changing. Additional information will be distributed once these new resources are available; however, be assured that during the transition, the previous web and email addresses will remain active and will re-route users to the new resource locations for a period of six months to one year.

Questions? If you have questions, please contact us at 877-560-8378, and select the appropriate menu option or email oeaa@michigan.gov.

2011 Michigan Junior Chef Competition

The goal of this year's Michigan Junior Chef Competition was to provide youth participants hands-on cooking experience and knowledge of healthy food choices. It was made up of two parts, a Recipe Contest and a Cook-off Competition. Recipes for the Recipe Contest had to include fresh, local, and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) foods; and be practical and easy for school food service operations to offer as part of their meal programs. The top eight teams from the Recipe Contest were invited to prepare their meals on-site at the Cook-off Competition at Michigan State University on May 11th, 2011.

Teams invited to the Cook-off Competition:

Brown City Good For You Girls, Brown City High School
Kitchen Girls, DeWitt Junior High and High School
J.A.M., DeWitt Junior High School
Sizzling Sauteers, DeWitt Junior High School
Savory Seven, Saint Brigid Catholic School, Midland
Eight is Enough, Saint Brigid Catholic School, Midland
Healthy Chefs, Manchester High School
Small Town Chefs, Hopkins High School

Meals were judged on nutrition quality, use of USDA foods and local, seasonal Michigan ingredients, time and labor to prepare meal, taste, appearance and presentation, creativity, and use of student-friendly foods. Teams were also required to create a Marketing Flyer for their meal which was included in the judging process.

First place went to ***Eight Is Enough*** from Midland's Saint Brigid Catholic School; second place to ***Brown City Good For You Girls*** from Brown City High School; and third place to ***Small Town Chefs*** from Hopkins High School. In addition to individual gifts for the students of the first, second, and third place teams; each received a monetary award for their school's foodservice department.



Recipes prepared by the top eight teams at the Cook-off Competition will be shared with schools throughout the state in a Michigan Junior Chef Cookbook.

For more information please visit <http://www.mifarmtoschool.msu.edu/chef>.

If speaking
is silver, then
listening is gold.

~Turkish Proverb

Qualified Zone Academy Bond (QZAB) Program

The Michigan Department of Education is pleased to announce the availability of a bond program that may benefit eligible local and intermediate school districts as well as public school academies.

The **Qualified Zone Academy Bond (QZAB)** Program is a federal program to help strengthen schools serving large concentrations of low-income families.

Eligible local and intermediate school districts and public school academies can take advantage of this program to finance equipping and/or renovating of school facilities through the allocation of tax credits or payment by the federal government of most or all of the interest on the **QZAB**. \$13,987,000 of **QZAB** financing will be issued during calendar year 2011.

For more information about the **QZAB** program, application process and eligibility, please visit: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/2011_QZAB_Announcement_351090_7.pdf.

Michigan Education Dashboard

Recently, Governor Rick Snyder laid out his education reform plan to the citizen's of Michigan. Part of this plan includes the use of a dashboard that focuses on specific and critical areas of education that are important to student and Michigan's success.

The information highlights Michigan's performance in the area of education and compares Michigan's ratings to other states when appropriate. You can access the dashboard at:

<http://www.michigan.gov/midashboard/0,1607,7-256-58084---,00.html>.

meapTM Access

MEAP-Access available for Fall 2011

This fall, the Bureau of Assessment and Accountability (BAA) is reintroducing an alternate assessment based on modified achievement standards. MEAP-Access was first administered as a pilot test during the winter of 2009 and was fully operational in the fall of that year. The results indicated that a one year study and development process was required to develop a more reliable test and find ways to increase student participation. This fall's MEAP-Access will be a much improved version of the test thanks to Michigan educators' and students' input over the past year.

What is so significant about this? This is a test developed for students with disabilities who have a valid, current Individualized Education Program (IEP), are in grades 3 through 8, and who struggle to meet grade-level proficiency within the same timeframe as their peers in the core content areas of reading, writing, and mathematics. The design of the test reduces some assessment complexities while still assessing the grade-level standards.

How should students be selected for this test? To participate in MEAP-Access students must have a valid, current IEP and have access to grade-level content instruction. Eligible students may previously have participated in the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP), and found, even with accommodations, that the MEAP was inappropriately difficult. Other eligible students may have previously taken the MI-Access Functional Independence test and discovered it lacked an appropriate level of challenge for them.

When will this test be administered? Fall 2011 MEAP-Access will be administered in the same window as the MEAP (October 11 – 28, 2011).

How will MEAP-Access benefit schools and districts? This is an opportunity to increase the number of proficient scores for some students with disabilities. This test will also assist teachers and parents with information that will help students progress toward grade-level achievement. MEAP-Access may also match more closely the instruction given and better reflect the students' skills.

Where can I get more information about MEAP-Access? The OEAA has a public webpage for MEAP-Access that contains all the assessment information for parents, IEP Teams and administrators. This important resource can be found at: www.michigan.gov/meap-access.

If you have any additional questions please contact Dan Evans at 517-335-1165 or evansd2@michigan.gov.



Michigan Jump\$tart Chairperson Announces 2011 Educator of the Year Contest

Lois Gibbons, Chairperson of Michigan Jump\$tart, is announcing an “Educator of the Year Scholarship” contest open to all Michigan-based educators. Michigan Jump\$tart is a non-profit organization that promotes financial literacy education in Michigan’s K -12 schools. Per Lois, “Financial education must be a vital part of every child’s core curriculum and yet it is a subject seldom taught in Michigan schools. To heighten the awareness of financial education, the Michigan Jump\$tart Coalition would like to recognize those who are doing a great job. “

The winning applicant will receive a scholarship to attend the National Educator Conference conducted by the National Jump\$tart organization on November 4-6 in Washington, DC. The scholarship includes airfare, conference fees, 2 nights lodging, and a per diem. Further information about the conference is at the following website: <http://www.nhjumpstart.org/NationalEducatorConference.htm>.

The application can be found at this link: <http://www.mijumpstartcoalition.org/> under the link for “Educator Contest”. Applications are due by June 30.



Waivers of Minimum Number of Hours and Days of Pupil Instruction

The State Aid Act, Section 101 (9), permits the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to waive the minimum number of hours and days of pupil instruction for Alternative Education programs or other innovative programs approved by MDE. This waiver can only be granted for Alternative Education or innovative programs and not for individual students.

The State Superintendent will consider applications for waivers of hours for programs that will operate for less than the required 1,098 hours and/or less than the required 165 days during the school year. Before submitting the waiver to operate less than the required 1,098 hours of instruction or less than the required 165 days of instruction, consider very carefully the amount of instruction time needed to deliver the Michigan Merit Curriculum.

To apply for a waiver under Section 101 (9), please complete the Waiver Application Review form and the Program Assurances form, available on the Department’s web page at http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-6530_30334_40027---,00.html. Waiver applications should be submitted to the Michigan Department of Education no later than October 1, 2011.

Please be advised that by completing this application and participating in the Waiver of Minimum Number of Hours and Days of Pupil Instruction for Alternative Education or other innovative programs, you agree to participate in a follow-up survey disseminated by the MDE. Please mail the completed packet to:

Office of Education Improvement & Innovation /Michigan Department of Education
Attention: Request for Alternative Education or Innovative Program Hours Waiver
P.O. Box 30008
Lansing, Michigan 48909

If you have any questions regarding the information being requested, please contact Gregg Dionne at (517) 241-6895, or email him at dionneg@michigan.gov.

School Improvement Grant Success Story

At sometime in a school's history, it will receive news that is tough to hear, and even more difficult to accept. However, it is what a school team does with this information, especially if the situation required corrections that will often define the strength of the school's educational team. Just ask the Romulus Middle School (RMS) principal, Jason Salhaney, or members of the RMS teaching staff.



Principal Jason Salhaney

The Romulus Middle School (RMS) staff members were initially surprised that the school landed on the Persistently Low Achieving (PLA) list. However, after the shock wore off, they responded with a “bulldog” determination to compete successfully for the School Improvement Grant (SIG), which would initiate the plan needed to increase student achievement.

Even before the SIG awards were announced, RMS staff already had targeted academic areas for school improvement. Based on their Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) data, they turned a razor sharp focus on increasing student achievement in the content areas of English language arts, and math. Similarly, they created a disciplinary plan to support the academic school improvement goals, called The Romulus Way program, which targets and diffuses disruptive student behavior.

To implement the SIG components, the district first had to overcome staff skepticism. This is a common problem for organizations faced with mandatory, systemic changes and sometimes can lead to staff resistance. However, the teachers at Romulus Middle School cautiously invited outside practitioners to RMS to observe and evaluate instructional practices. As student achievement increased and professional development became more individualized to specific instructional needs, confidence in the SIG plan grew and resistance diminished.



The successful improvements by this school can be attributed to the principal's commitment and the intense determination of a dedicated and professional teaching staff, whose singular goal is to educate their students with rigor and fidelity. The bulldog mascot is a perfect visual of how RMS fostered a culture of change that focused on teacher collaboration and enhanced instructional delivery for all students, everyday. The SIG award enabled the school to streamline their academic and behavioral school improvement focus.

Kudos - to the Romulus leadership team and instructional staff!

Career-and College-Ready Cut Score Status

The Office of Psychometrics, Accountability, Research, & Evaluation has received several recent inquiries regarding career- and college-ready cut scores. The new career- and college-ready cut scores are in the process of being established. At the February 2011 meeting of the Michigan State Board of Education, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) was charged with conducting a study aimed at identifying a set of cut scores for the Michigan Merit Examination (MME) and the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) content areas that will signify whether a student is career- and college-ready (MME) or on-track to being career- and college-ready (MEAP). The study is underway and once results are available, the Bureau of Assessment and Accountability (BAA) will present its recommendations to the State Board of Education. This presentation will occur no later than the September 2011 meeting. Pending approval, the new cut-scores will be in place for the 2011-2012 school year.

Also, a new operational writing test was implemented as part of the MEAP in fall 2010. Following that administration, new cut scores were established for the writing test. Questions have been raised whether the new cut scores for writing represent career- and college-ready cut scores. It is true the new cut scores set for writing are more in line with ACT benchmarks for college readiness; however, once the thorough analysis is completed, MDE may need to further align the new writing cut scores with the career- and college-ready cut scores.

If you have remaining questions on career- and college-ready cut scores, please email oeaa@michigan.gov or call 877-560-8378.

2011 "BREAKING TRADITIONS" AWARDS

Twenty-three high school students from across the state received a coveted Breaking Traditions Award today from the Michigan Department of Education's Office of Career and Technical Education.

The Breaking Traditions Awards were established to recognize students who have been successful in Career and Technical Education program areas that are nontraditional for their gender.

"These outstanding students are preparing themselves to enter a career that will benefit them individually and benefit Michigan by increasing diversity in our state's workforce," commented Superintendent of Public Instruction Mike Flanagan. "By their determination and dedication to pursuing careers in an area non-traditional for their gender, they are role models for peers who may be considering such a career path."

The students recently received the awards at a ceremony at the Library of Michigan in Lansing. Presenting the awards to the students were Patty Cantú, Director, Office of Career and Technical Education; Dr. Joanne Mahony, Supervisor, Office of Career and Technical Education; and Norma R. Tims, Gender Equity/Title IX Coordinator, Office of Career and Technical Education.

To qualify for consideration, a student had to meet these criteria:

- Be completing a Career and Technical Education program that is nontraditional for his/her gender
- Be enrolled in a Michigan high school or career center program during the 2010-2011 school year
- Be nominated by a teacher, counselor, administrator, or other personnel employed by the student's school or career center
- Have satisfactory academic standing and acceptable citizenship and disciplinary history.
- Have made a contribution to awareness of nontraditional careers through successful participation in one or more of the following activities:
 - Exemplary completion of a program considered nontraditional for the student's gender
 - Successful competition in a program-related event or contest
 - Participation in a Career and Technical Student Organization
 - Active recruitment of other students into programs nontraditional for their gender
 - Mentoring other students in Career and Technical Education programs nontraditional for their gender
 - Significant contributions to the student's specific Career and Technical Education program

In addition to being nominated, each applicant was required to provide two letters of support and write a brief narrative explaining his or her choice of career, obstacles faced, and key accomplishments.



Congratulations to the 2011 Breaking Traditions Recipients!!

Michigan State Board of Education

John C. Austin
President
Ann Arbor

Cassandra Ulbrich
Vice President
Rochester Hills

Nancy Danhof
Secretary
East Lansing

Marianne Yared McGuire
Treasurer
Detroit

Richard Zeile
NASBE Delegate
Detroit

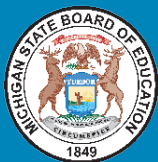
Kathleen N. Straus
Member
Detroit

Dan Varner
Member
Detroit

Eileen Lappin Weiser
Member
Ann Arbor

Governor Rick Snyder
Ex Officio

Michael P. Flanagan
Chairman
Superintendent of Public Instruction
Ex Officio



Newsletter Contacts:

David Head
headd@michigan.gov

Director of Communications
Martin Ackley

www.michigan.gov/mde-newsletter

ON THE HORIZON...

- Near Future

[State Board of Education Meeting](#), June 14, 2011

[MAISA Summer Conference](#), June 16-18, 2011

[2011 Emerging Leaders](#), June 20-22, 2011

[Michigan Joint Education Conference](#), June 22, 2011

[MASSP Summer Institute](#), June 27-29, 2011

- Distant Future

[MEMSPA Summer Leader Institute](#), August 1-2, 2011

[62nd MCTM Annual Conference](#), August 3-4, 2011

[State Board of Education Meeting](#), August 9, 2011

[MAASE Summer Institute 2011](#), August 10-12, 2011

[Annual Facilities/Operations Director Conference](#), Oct 2-4

[MANS Administrator's Conference](#), Oct 5-7, 2011

[MASB Annual Fall Conference](#), Oct 27-30, 2011

[MDE/MSBO Workshop](#), November 2, 2011

[Support Staff Conf for Admin Professionals](#), Nov 17-18

[Fall MDE School Improvement Conference](#), Nov 28-29

