



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** January 11, 2018

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

**FROM:** Venessa A. Keesler, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent *V. Keesler*  
Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports

**SUBJECT:** Section 31a At-Risk Pupils

Section 31a provides funding to eligible Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) for instructional and direct non-instructional support services for students who meet the at-risk identification characteristics specified in the legislation. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has been providing technical assistance to LEAs receiving State Section 31a At-Risk funds on how to address the revised legislative requirements of this grant.

The intent of this announcement is to provide advanced notice to all LEAs that the Section 31a legislation may change again effective October 2018. While the intent and purposes of Section 31a may stay the same, other legislative changes may lead to narrowing down the student eligibility criteria, expanding the allowable activities, and possibly establishing a new baseline year and legislative accountability for academic achievement of at-risk students.

Therefore, LEAs are urged to plan their staffing and initiatives knowing that not all current eligible students will qualify for Section 31a At-Risk identification starting in October 2018. Several technical assistance documents along with Section 31a Monitoring Indicators are available at the [Office of Field Services \(OFS\) website](#). Under Programs, click on Section 31a At-Risk, then click on Google Drive under the Resource Materials section.

The MDE Section 31a Technical Assistance Team is available to provide guidance/technical assistance throughout this process and beyond.

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

CASANDRA E. ULBRICH – CO-PRESIDENT • RICHARD ZEILE – CO-PRESIDENT  
MICHELLE FECTEAU – SECRETARY • TOM MCMILLIN – TREASURER  
NIKKI SNYDER – NASBE DELEGATE • PAMELA PUGH  
LUPE RAMOS-MONTIGNY • EILEEN LAPPIN WEISER

608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909  
[www.michigan.gov/mde](http://www.michigan.gov/mde) • 517-373-3324

**Section 31a Technical Assistance Team:**

Dawn Carmody, Stephanie Holmes-Webster or Lisa Francisco  
Early Literacy & MTSS Consultants  
Office of Field Services  
Special Populations Unit  
[CarmodyD1@michigan.gov](mailto:CarmodyD1@michigan.gov)  
[Holmes-WebsterS@michigan.gov](mailto:Holmes-WebsterS@michigan.gov)  
[FranciscoL@michigan.gov](mailto:FranciscoL@michigan.gov)  
517-373-6066

Shereen Tabrizi, Program Manager  
Office of Field Services  
Special Populations Unit  
[TabriziS@michigan.gov](mailto:TabriziS@michigan.gov)  
517-373-6066

**Section 31a Accountability:**

Alexander Schwarz, Education Assessment Specialist  
Office of Assessment and Accountability  
[SchwarzA@michigan.gov](mailto:SchwarzA@michigan.gov)  
517-373-1292

Chris Janzer, Assistant Director  
Office of Assessment and Accountability  
[JanzerC@michigan.gov](mailto:JanzerC@michigan.gov)  
517-335-5406

**Reporting of Section 31a Eligible Pupils in MSDS:**

Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI)  
Customer Support Help Desk  
[CEPI@michigan.gov](mailto:CEPI@michigan.gov)  
517-335-0505

cc: Michigan Education Alliance