



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** January 18, 2018

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

**FROM:** Sheila A. Alles   
Chief Deputy Superintendent

**SUBJECT:** Minecraft: Education Edition Licensing Pilot Program

I am pleased to announce that the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), Office of P-20 Data, Information, and Research Management (P-20 DIRM), has selected 144 districts across the state to participate in the Minecraft: Education Edition (M:EE) Licensing Pilot Program. As part of the pilot, districts will receive free M:EE licenses, software, and professional development. A list of recipients can be found at <http://www.techplan.org/rdi/minecraft/>.

The M:EE is a special version of the game developed specifically for educational use. This version was developed for educational settings to make the game classroom-friendly without sacrificing the game world that many students know and love. Minecraft engages and empowers students, builds 21st century skills such as communication and collaboration, and develops new literacies like coding. For educators, Minecraft offers special features, such as tutorials and lessons across subject areas, classroom management tools, and secure sign-in. Because of its open learning environment, Minecraft works across grade levels and subject areas.

The M:EE pilot program supports goal two, strategy 2.6 and 2.7 of Michigan's Top 10 in 10 Strategic Plan by engaging students in well-rounded learning experiences in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), language, business, culture, and creativity, as well as providing access to personalized learning technologies that support and enhance those learning experiences. This project also provides students an opportunity to practice and master [Michigan Integrated Technology Competencies for Students](#) (MITECS).

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Districts participating in the pilot will be part of a community that will share best practices and lessons learned related to deployment, implementation, and use of the M:EE with students. More than 70,000 licenses will be deployed to the pilot districts over the next four months. Students and educators will be able to use the licenses for the remainder of the school year and over the summer months. Pilot districts will have an opportunity to renew their licenses for the 2018-19 school year.

Congratulations to the pilot districts on a successful application. Award letters will be sent to the pilot districts with additional information regarding the pilot. For more information regarding the MDE M:EE Pilot Program please see

<http://www.techplan.org/rdi/minecraft>.

If you have questions, please email or call Amanda Stoel (stoela@michigan.gov), Department Analyst in the Educational Technology Unit with the Office of P-20 Data, Information, and Research Management at (517) 241-3629.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance