



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

November 10, 2022

Dear Higher Education Partners in Teacher Preparation,

MDE is committed to working with current educator preparation providers (EPPs) this year to expand innovation to meet the state's teacher needs prior to any consideration of lifting the moratorium to permit applications for others to join the ranks of current EPPs. That said, to simply lean on what we have done—insufficient to provide the requisite quality, quantity, and diversity of teachers in Michigan—is not an option for any of us. Our children require more from us.

This year, the governor and the legislature worked together with many of us on a generational budget to support all eight goals of Michigan's Top 10 Strategic Education Plan, approved by the State Board of Education in August 2020. The budget features an unprecedented \$575 million to support preparation and revitalization of the educator workforce in fiscal year 2023 and beyond in several areas, many of which the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) had recommended to the governor and legislature last fall. This extraordinary appropriation challenges us to collaborate across the educator ecosystem to ensure that future Michigan educators are well prepared and well supported to meet the needs of future generations of Michigan children.

We must work together to expand access to preparation experiences and open new doors into the educator workforce. The grant funds appropriated by the legislature provide an opportunity to build upon innovations that many educator preparation providers in Michigan currently employ. We seek to leverage this funding to spread needed innovation across our state.

Reviewed and approved by MDE, Michigan's *existing* educator preparation providers have the opportunity right now to engage in innovative practices in collaboration with local and intermediate school districts to meet local and intermediate school staffing demands. More providers do not necessarily generate more teachers for Michigan classrooms, but an increased partnering between current providers and local and intermediate school districts in the creation of more opportunities for access to educator preparation does. To accomplish this ambitious goal in service to our public school children, and to capitalize on the financial opportunity afforded us, MDE urges the following:

1. Inform prospective educators and employing districts of current innovations and quantify the impact that these innovations have had on the ecosystem.

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

CASANDRA E. ULBRICH – PRESIDENT • PAMELA PUGH – VICE PRESIDENT  
TIFFANY D. TILLEY – SECRETARY • TOM MCMILLIN – TREASURER  
JUDITH PRITCHETT – NASBE DELEGATE  
ELLEN COGEN LIPTON • NIKKI SNYDER

608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909  
[www.michigan.gov/mde](http://www.michigan.gov/mde) • 833-633-5788

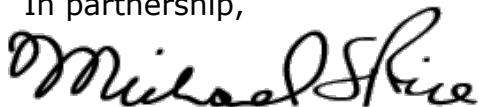
2. Leverage new funding streams to expand the use of current innovative practices to immediately affect the workforce and meet the current staffing needs of Pre-K-12/district partners.
3. Collaborate with Pre-K-12 partners to develop *new* innovative pathways for *new* populations of Michigan teachers and support *increasingly diverse and equitable* recruitment, preparation, and retention.
4. Help us identify barriers to innovation that may exist in policy and work toward mitigating them to better support the preparation of new educators.

To substantially influence the staffing needs of our state, it is essential that educator preparation providers leverage the knowledge and experience of teacher candidates to accelerate program completion without compromising on high standards for teacher quality in our state. We have a generational investment in the preparation ecosystem, which can be profoundly impactful, but only if we forge deep partnerships to respond swiftly to pressing local needs or employ innovations to expedite the experiences of teacher candidates.

The aforementioned critical actions will support our collective work to increase the quantity, quality, and diversity of educators in Michigan schools.

We look forward to partnering with you in the coming months to expand innovative pathways into the profession. Concurrently, we will be lifting up and publicizing relatively recent and new collaborative efforts between EPPs and local/intermediate school districts to increase quantity, quality, and diversity of our Michigan educator ranks. We look forward to these efforts and to the rebuilding of the teaching profession in Michigan that teaches and nurtures our 1.4 million public school children.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael F. Rice". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael F. Rice, Ph.D.  
State Superintendent