



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



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GOVERNOR

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SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

November 29, 2004

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** State Board of Education

**FROM:** Thomas D. Watkins, Jr., Chairman  
*Tom Watkins*

**SUBJECT:** Presentation on Grade Level Content Expectations Companion Document Project

The English Language Arts and Mathematics Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCE) were developed by educators across the state and adopted by the State Board of Education in November of 2003. The GLCE are specific grade level expectations and clarify what students are expected to know and do on grade level assessments, while the Michigan Curriculum Frameworks define the broader curriculum expected to be taught and learned in Michigan schools. The GLCE documents are the third tier of Michigan's Curriculum Framework and will directly correlate to items on the grade level MEAP Assessments, as required by the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*. The GLCE were rolled-out on March 30, 2004 and widely disseminated to Michigan educators throughout the spring.

During the summer, groups of educators from around the state worked to align the standards and benchmarks with the GLCE. A number of documents, including guides for parents, a professional development module and a CD containing all GLCE documents have been created.

As part of the dissemination process, a team of MDE and ISD staff has provided an overview of the documents to be used by local and intermediate educators as they work with staff in their districts. Presentations have been made in over 25 regional locations to over 2000 educators.

The enclosed packet includes a sample of the various documents, CD, and training module that is presented during the training sessions.

To support this project, the State of Michigan and Microsoft Corporation entered into a unique public/private partnership created to help improve student achievement. As part of *Microsoft Partners in Learning*, a worldwide initiative, this five year partnership is designed to support current and develop new innovative solutions that will help to improve the relevancy of education and develop 21<sup>st</sup> century skills in Michigan. Ms. Mary Cullinane, Project Director, *Microsoft Partners in Learning*, will attend the December 14, 2004, Board meeting to offer comments on the program. Michigan's latest monthly update is attached for the Board's information.

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## Michigan Partners in Learning Monthly Update

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**Organization: Michigan Department of Education**

**Date: 11-15-04**

**Grant #:**

**Initiative: GLCE**

**Summary of Status: (no longer than 3 paragraphs please)**

### **Dissemination**

- Four additional Regional GLCE Companion Document professional development sessions occurred during November. These sessions reached 400 educators. The Assistant Director of OSI, Mathematics Consultant and GLCE Support Staff continue to disseminate information at various professional development organizational sites around the state.
- Contact was maintained with the ISD/RESA and local district planning committee for Tier III of the dissemination plan. Materials in development were reviewed.
- Lexile Project is on schedule.
- GLCE Website has been updated.

### **Additional Document Creation**

- ELA Grade Level Specific Document (MCF/GLCE) has been completed. K-8 Grade Level Booklets containing introductory letter, Teaching & Assessment Standards, and Grade Specific Alignment Documents are in final draft form waiting for approval.
- Mathematics Grade Level Specific Document (MCF/GLCE) target completion is 12-04.
- ELA Cross Grade Document completed in draft form.

### **SCOPE Curriculum Project**

- Meeting with Oakland SCOPE Team members occurred. The purpose of this collaborative meeting was to establish a timeline for the project, clarify roles, and review Oakland's process for revising and editing the former SCOPE units.
- MVU, SCOPE Team, and MDE met to discuss use of Michigan Learnport as it pertains to the project. Professional development on how to administer the sight was provided by MVU following the meeting to the MDE point person.

### **Parent Documents**

- Grade 3-5 GLCE Parent Documents- Target Completion 1-05

### **High School Benchmarks**

- Report of the High School Reform Committee is being studied to use as resource for the creation of a committee to develop benchmarks for 9-12.

### **Gateway Concepts**

- Initial research began on the possibility of using the Survey of Enacted Curriculum (SEC) as a resource to align the MCF/GLCE with careers.

### **Highlights / Lowlights**

- Creation of an Online Learning Community using Michigan Learnport for Parent Document Committee.
- Request from the field prompted four additional dissemination sessions.
- Creation of K-8 Grade Level Booklets containing introductory letter, Teaching & Assessment Standards, and Grade Specific Alignment Documents.
- Professional development is occurring at ISD/RESAs to support implementation of GLCE.
- Initial planning has begun on coding GLCE to the Survey of Enacted Curriculum.

**Note: The CD is available by contacting the State Board of Education Office.**