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MICHIGAN Department of Education

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Memorandum

TO: Local School District and Intermediate School District Superintendents, Directors of Special Education, Intermediate School District Curriculum Directors and Public School Academy Administrators

FROM: Jacquelyn J. Thompson, Ph.D., Director
Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services

Yvonne Caamal Canul, Ph.D., Director
Office of School Improvement

DATE: April 10, 2006

SUBJECT: English Language Arts Learning Community Summer Institute

Michigan's State Improvement Grant is pleased to announce the following collaborative professional development opportunities.

Phase I

Session Title	**Applying the RCM Strategy to English Language Arts**
Focus	Participants of this one week session will use a Root Cause Map to develop classroom learning strategies for use by both general and special educators who teach the English Language Arts. Root Cause Mapping, a process that convenes diverse stakeholders to address complex system problems, was used in May 2005 to build consensus around the question, *"What are the factors that inhibit attainment of ELA proficiency among Michigan's middle schools that have students with disabilities?"* Participants included people with expertise in reading, speech pathology, and special education. Results from this session will be compiled and serve as foundational strategies for professional development to be offered statewide.
Benefit	This professional development opportunity will be of greatest value to Instructional Coaches, ISD English Language Arts and Special Education Consultants, District ELA Administrators, Middle School ELA and Special Education Department Chairs, and accomplished general and special education teachers who have demonstrated expertise in ELA.
Time	Save the week of **June 19th - 23rd, 2006** for this not to be missed workshop.

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Phase II

Session Title	**Trainer of Trainers Seminar**
Focus	Participants of this Trainer of Trainers Seminar will have the unique opportunity to pilot the launching of the professional development literacy strategies developed during Phase I to Michigan Middle Schools in the fall. ***The participant's schools will be asked to commit to having the Phase II Certified teachers train their general and special education ELA colleagues around the products and processes presented in this session.*** Participants will receive the necessary materials to facilitate the implementation of three professional development sessions at their school site. These "teacher-trainers" will also be asked to commit to supplying results data to the State Improvement Grant so the impact of the entire process can be properly evaluated.
Benefit	This seminar will be of greatest value to ELA professionals focusing on middle schools including general and special education teachers, Instructional Coaches and ISD Consultants. Participants will receive certification for the training they receive. SB-CEU's and college credit are being explored.
Time	Save the week of **August 7th – 9th, 2006** for this learning experience.

Stipends will be provided for Summer Institute participants. Interested participants should contact Priscilla Burch, Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services, Michigan Department of Education via e-mail (BurchP@michigan.gov) for registration information.

Sincerely,

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