



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

## **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** September 10, 2020

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

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

**SUBJECT:** Nominations for the 2020 RISE Award and 2020-21 Education Support Staff Professional of the Year Award

The Michigan Department of Education is accepting nominations of outstanding educational support staff members for two state Education Support Staff Professional of the Year Awards. As designated in the federal process, Governor Gretchen Whitmer will also forward the two awardees to the U.S. Department of Education as Michigan's nominees for the [Recognizing Inspirational School Employees \(RISE\) Award](#).

The purpose of these awards is to recognize and promote the commitment and excellence exhibited by school employees who provide exemplary service to students. These school support staff members work as paraprofessionals, secretaries, clerks, bus drivers, maintenance staff, food and nutrition services staff, technical services staff, and skilled tradespeople.

Individuals, local educational agencies (both traditional public schools and public school academies), school administrators, professional associations, labor organizations, educational service agencies, nonprofit entities, private schools and their representatives, parents and students, and other groups may nominate using the [online form](#) between now and Friday, September 25, 2020, at 11:59 p.m.

At a minimum, nominees must demonstrate excellence in the following areas: work performance; school and community involvement; leadership and commitment; local support (from co-workers, school administrators, and community members who speak to the nominee's exemplary work); and enhancement of classified school employees' image in the community and schools.

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Questions should be directed to Jennifer Robel, manager of the recruitment and recognition unit in the Office of Educator Excellence, at [RobelJ@Michigan.gov](mailto:RobelJ@Michigan.gov).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance  
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors