



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

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INTERIM STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 11, 2019

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

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

SUBJECT: Section 31a At-risk Accountability and Identification

In the 2016-2017 school year, the Michigan legislature passed changes to Section 31a that resulted in added accountability measures. These changes are scheduled to take effect in the coming year, 2019-20. This memo is to clarify requirements related to this law.

Section 31a provides funding to eligible local educational agencies (LEAs) for direct instructional and non-instructional support services for eligible At-risk students. Additional requirements of funding include: utilizing and implementing a K-12 Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework with fidelity; complying with Read by Grade Three law; using early literacy and numeracy resources; and supplementing breakfast programs.

This communication is designed to provide clarification on the identification of At-risk students in the Michigan Student Data System (MSDS) and outline updates regarding the At-risk accountability measures outlined in Section 31a(16) including the redirection of Section 31a funds. It also includes a tentative timeline, including an early warning notification for LEAs that may be impacted by the Section 31a law in 2019-20. Section 31a is a topic of discussion in every budget season. The State Budget Office and the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) continue to work together on this legislation for the next fiscal year. The information included in this memo is based on current law. If there are changes, we will communicate them.

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Identification of At-Risk Student in MSDS

To assist LEAs with the identification process, the MDE and the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) have "auto"-identified students in the following categories: economically disadvantaged (ED), English learner (EL), and immigrant. This derived flag for At-risk identification was implemented with the 2018 fall general collection.

Section 31a(20) describes 10 criteria to identify At-risk students. Three criteria are "auto"-identified as discussed above, while students meeting any of the other seven eligibility criteria need to be reported with the code 3060 in the Program Participation Component within the MSDS General Collections. This also means, with the exception of the "auto"-identified eligible students, once a student is found eligible in a school year, the LEAs should continue to report the 3060 code for At-risk students in subsequent collections during that school year. The MDE continues to work with the legislature to streamline and simplify reporting. For additional information, as well as an optional identification worksheet, please visit the [Section 31a Webpage](#).

To further assist you, an appendix is attached that includes:

- Updates Regarding the At-risk Accountability Measures
- Tentative Timeline for the Implementation of the Accountability Measures
- A link to the Potential [Redirection "Heads Up"](#) by LEA table
- Technical Assistance Opportunities

For additional support, please contact:

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Attachment

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

APPENDIX

Updates Regarding the At-risk Accountability Measures

- Beginning in 2019-20, LEAs not meeting the minimum proficiency targets are required under Section 31a(16) accountability provisions to redirect funds to the following three areas. The MDE is in the process of aligning Section 31a Accountability guidance, processes, and timelines to ensure LEAs have enough time to analyze, prepare, and redirect funds appropriately.
- The three accountability measures specified in the 2018-19 law are:
 - 3rd grade English Language Arts (ELA) proficiency (50%) as demonstrated by the state summative assessment
 - 8th grade Mathematics proficiency (50%) as demonstrated by the state summative assessment
 - 11th grade career and college readiness as demonstrated by the Michigan Merit Examination (MME) summative (SAT Evidence Based Reading, Writing, Mathematics & M-Step Science) using three preceding years of data (2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19). The 11th grade Science data is included as of 2017-18 for 11th grade career and college readiness.
- The 2018-19 law also provides an option for LEAs to report meeting 3rd and 8th grade targets using local district benchmarks to demonstrate one year's growth. The MDE is preparing a process and corresponding guidance for LEAs that choose to pursue this option.
- Redirection requires a relative proportion of the 1/3 of the allocated funds to be expended in support of each target that was not met. This relative proportion is equal to the percentage of students not proficient in each measured area.
 - As an example, an LEA has 37% of 3rd grade At-risk students Proficient on ELA test. They have not met the 50% target. The LEA receives a Section 31a allocation of \$100,000. To determine the percentage of At-risk pupils not proficient, subtract the percent proficient from 100%. The LEA is required to redirect 63% of 1/3 of the allocation, or \$21,000, to support 3rd grade proficiency in grades K-3.
 - Calculation:

3 rd At-risk ELA Proficiency = 37%
3 rd grade Not Proficient = 100%-37% = 63%
Current Section 31a Allocation: \$100,000
1/3 of Current allocation: \$33,333.33
Not Proficient x 1/3 of allocation = redirection amount
63% x \$33,333 = \$21,000
 - The redirection calculation will apply to each area in which the Section 31a benchmark was not met (3rd, 8th, and 11th).

- Beginning with 2017-18, for accountability purposes, the At-risk subgroup is derived from the following data:
 - Students reported with the 3060 At-risk program participation code in MSDS
 - Students reported with the Immigrant program participation code in MSDS
 - Students reported as English Learner in MSDS
 - Students identified as economically disadvantaged
- The 2017-18 At-risk State assessment proficiency data will be available this spring for LEAs to review on the [MiSchoolData website](#) for 3rd grade ELA and 11th grade Career and College Readiness.

Technical Assistance Opportunities

The MDE has developed technical assistance to guide LEAs in intentional program planning to address the requirements of this grant and maximize resources addressing the academic and non-academic needs of students.

Please see the [Section 31a Webpage](#) for further information detailed in the legislation and the Program Monitoring Indicators.

To verify the amount of the LEA's Section 31a estimated allocations, please refer to the State Aid Financial Status Report, listed by Intermediate School Districts (ISDs) and available at:

<https://mdoe.state.mi.us/samspublic/Report#/StatusReport>

TENTATIVE Timeline for Implementation of the Accountability Measures

Time	Event
Early Spring 2019:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With this memo, the MDE team is providing a redirection "heads up" by LEA table based on the most recent available State Assessments (2017-18). This table is intended to provide a "heads-up" to districts regarding <u>potential</u> redirection of Section 31a At-risk funds beginning 2019-20. The MDE is providing this resource to allow LEAs to begin to plan for redirection if required. • The redirection "heads up" can be accessed by the above link and is posted on the Section 31a Webpage. LEAs will find a "R" under each of the three measures that may require redirection. Search by LEA name to view the current analysis of At-risk data for 3rd Grade ELA, 8th Grade Mathematics, and 11th Grade College and Career Readiness. • Current Section 31a law states that accountability measures will begin in 2019-20, therefore this is <u>not</u> the final data that will be used to implement redirection requirements. It is a provided as a courtesy for pre-planning.
Early Fall 2019:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MDE team will provide an "early identification" list of LEAs that may require redirection using 2018-19 <u>preliminary</u> data. This will provide LEAs an early opportunity to decide whether to pursue the local benchmark option. • Additional guidance and procedures will be released prior to the release of preliminary data.
Late Fall 2019:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2018-19 State Assessment data will be released, and verified data used to make final determinations on which LEAs will be required to redirect funds and towards which of the three targets. • 2019-20 will be considered Year 1 for redirection. Year 1 redirection activities will include assessment of the whole child's needs, analyzing what current initiatives are demonstrating positive outcomes and planning for redirection. Note: Year 1 focuses on planning; Year 2 (2020-21) will be the implementation year.
Winter 2019:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission of documentation for the local benchmark assessment option to the MDE.
Summer 2020:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission of redirection plans to the MDE.
2020-21:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redirection Year 2, LEA implementation of the 2019-20 planning.