



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

December 19, 2013

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Venessa Keesler, Ph.D. 
Deputy Superintendent, Education Services

SUBJECT: Waiver Request from U.S. Department of Education for Title III,
Part A, Annual Measurable Achievement Objective # 1

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is required by Title III, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to calculate three Annual Measurable Objectives (AMAOs) for Limited English Proficiency (LEP), also known as English learners (ELs). The three AMAOs include AMAO 1, which measures the percentage of ELs making "progress" on the State English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA); AMAO 2, which measures the progress of ELs in attaining English proficiency on ELPA; and AMAO 3, which measures whether districts have achieved Accountability Scorecard targets for the LEP/EL subgroup on the statewide assessments in both subject areas of mathematics and reading.

Due to the transition from ELPA to the World Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA), the MDE is requesting the U.S. Department of Education to grant us a waiver of the requirement to calculate AMAO 1 for school year 2013-2014. Specifically, the MDE is seeking approval for this waiver to allow Local Education Agencies (LEAs) within Michigan to be exempt from accountability for AMAO 1 determination during the transition year to the WIDA summative assessments.

Michigan believes that the requested waiver will increase the quality of instruction for students and improve the academic achievement of students by transitioning to WIDA. The WIDA summative assessments are aligned to Michigan's reading and mathematics content standards as it relates to academic language proficiency.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

JOHN C. AUSTIN – PRESIDENT • CASANDRA E. ULBRICH – VICE PRESIDENT
DANIEL VARNER – SECRETARY • RICHARD ZEILE – TREASURER
MICHELLE FECTION – NASBE DELEGATE • LUPE RAMOS-MONTIGNY
KATHLEEN N. STRAUS • EILEEN LAPPIN WEISER

608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
www.michigan.gov/mde • (517) 373-3324

Page 2
December 19, 2013

This waiver request may be accessed at www.michigan.gov/mde.

Local Educational Agencies, Title III Consortia, Public School Academies and Intermediate School Districts wishing to comment on the request should submit comments to TitleICarryoverWaiver@michigan.gov by **January 13, 2014**.

Please feel free to contact Shereen Tabrizi, Ph.D. at 517-373-9524, or e-mail, TabriziS@michigan.gov, if you have any questions regarding this request. Thank you for your consideration.

cc. Michigan Education Alliance