



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** September 17, 2015

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

**FROM:** Norma Jean Sass   
Deputy Superintendent, Education Services

Venessa A. Keesler, Ph.D.   
Deputy Superintendent, Accountability Services

**SUBJECT:** 2015-16 Annual Education Report Update

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) sent a memorandum on May 7, 2015 stating that "districts and schools will not be required to distribute Annual Education Reports (AERs) and the related cover letters this summer." This decision was made pending the approval of the MDE's ESEA Flexibility Request and the availability of data resulting from the new accountability testing conducted during the 2014-15 school year.

The U.S. Department of Education renewed the MDE's ESEA Flexibility Request on August 13, 2015. A cross-office committee is working to simplify the process for compliance with Sections 1111 and 1116 of ESEA requiring public report cards (AERs and cover letters). Website information is being updated, reporting deadlines are being discussed, and preparations are being made to communicate the revised 2015-16 AER requirements to all local educational agencies (LEAs).

Accountability data for the 2014-15 school year will not include school/district proficiency targets or final accountability outcomes due to Michigan's transition to the M-STEP. Full accountability information will resume as a part of the Annual Education Report starting with 2015-16 data.

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Currently no action is needed with AERs for 2015-16; the MDE will communicate the AER requirements for 2015-16 as soon as the process is clarified. When the next AER communication is released, it will contain a revised Frequently Asked Questions document to clarify procedural changes and identify key deadlines for the 2015-16 AER cycle.

If you have questions, please contact Mike Radke at [radkem@michigan.gov](mailto:radkem@michigan.gov) or Dave Judd at [juddd@michigan.gov](mailto:juddd@michigan.gov).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance