



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 26, 2017

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 Support

SUBJECT: Summit on Chronic Absenteeism

The Michigan Department of Education is partnering with the Office of Foundation Liaison to hold a day-long summit *Attendance Matters*, where we will explore ways to reduce chronic absenteeism in all Michigan schools. Partners from all corners of the state – foundations, school districts, elected officials, state agencies, nonprofit organizations, and practitioners – will gather to learn more about the landscape in Michigan and explore effective cross-sector strategies.

At 660 Michigan schools, more than 30 percent of students are chronically absent – putting Michigan well above the national average for extreme levels of chronic absenteeism. In response, Michigan will opt into using chronic absenteeism as an accountability measure in compliance with the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Because chronic absenteeism is the result of challenges with safety, health, nutrition, school climate, social and emotional skills, transportation, sibling care, and others, *Attendance Matters* will offer a variety of large- and small-group sessions designed to spark conversation and align on solutions.

Because of the support of our sponsors and planning partners, there is no cost to attend this event. The summit will be held on November 6, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the Lansing Center. You can [learn more here](#) and RSVP by contacting Robin Celeski at rceleski@michiganfoundations.org.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

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