



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

July 29, 2011

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Sally Vaughn, Ph.D. *Sally*
Deputy Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer

SUBJECT: *Michigan Department of Education Request to Waive the Academic Proficiency Requirements of Title I, Part A*

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is requesting a waiver of Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) requirement that 100 percent of all students are proficient on the state assessments by 2014. The state assessments consist of the Michigan Education Assessment Program (MEAP) and Michigan Merit Exam (MME). This request is in response to the new college and career ready cut scores that will go into effect with the 2011-12 school year.

Given the new rigor of the cut scores, the MDE believes a 100 percent proficiency target to be unreasonable. The MDE proposes to reduce the target percentage to 80 percent of students career and college ready, or on track for career and college readiness. This aligns with our proposed state accreditation system, which sets 80 percent of schools with 80 percent of students on track for career and college readiness as a target at which the accreditation system must be revised. Michigan has requested a waiver of the 100 percent proficiency requirement, and extend the deadline to reach the proficiency target to 10 years from the granting of this waiver.

The waiver request may be accessed online at www.michigan.gov/mde under "Current Topics."

LEAs wishing to comment on the request should submit comments to arrawaiverresponse@michigan.gov by August 11, 2011.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

JOHN C. AUSTIN – PRESIDENT • CASANDRA E. ULBRICH – VICE PRESIDENT
NANCY DANHOF – SECRETARY • MARIANNE YARED MCGUIRE – TREASURER
RICHARD ZEILE – NASBE DELEGATE • KATHLEEN N. STRAUS
DANIEL VARNER • EILEEN LAPPIN WEISER

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