



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** May 7, 2021

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

**FROM:** William A. Pearson, Ed.D., Interim Deputy Superintendent  
Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports *WAP*

**SUBJECT:** Accelerated Learning Guidance for All Students -  
MEMO #COVID-19-186

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is pleased to announce the release of the first set of informational guides on how to address learning gaps through accelerated learning. The informational guides were developed by MDE in collaboration with educators and education partners throughout the state. The department highly recommends that districts focus their programming on accelerated learning rather than remediation.

The pandemic and the unplanned shift to remote learning have widened the academic gap for many students in our state. Accelerated learning focuses on filling academic gaps by strategically preparing students for success with current grade-level content to move them forward on their intended grade-level trajectories.

Accelerated learning prepares students for new learning combined with "just-in-time" teaching of missing key skills and concepts in the purposeful context of current lessons. Opportunities to accelerate learning rely on robust Tier 1 instruction that includes grade-appropriate assignments, strong instruction, deep engagement, and teachers who hold high expectations for students. This robust instruction should be enhanced with supports targeted to the skills and services that students need to stay on grade level.

MDE has launched an [accelerated learning webpage](#) of the MDE website. Three informational guides in the first set of documents are posted on this new webpage. They include Acceleration vs. Remediation, Targeting Support with Tutoring, and Tier 1 Grade Level Instruction. Five additional accelerated learning guides will be released during the next two weeks. The accelerated learning webpage will continue to be updated with additional guides and other resources.

For questions pertaining to accelerated learning, please contact Ruth Anne Hodges at [HodgesR3@michigan.gov](mailto:HodgesR3@michigan.gov).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance  
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors

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