



## **Accountability for Alternative Schools:**

### **Overview**

#### **Background**

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has committed to developing a new, differentiated system of accountability for alternative schools. As such, MDE is developing and piloting a new Scorecard for Alternative Schools accountability program.

Many alternative education-focused entities are currently not properly held accountable through existing assessment-based identifiers as most students are not present long enough to be considered Full Academic Year (FAY) students for these existing accountability systems. Additionally, alternative education-focused entities may not have enough enrolled students at the time of the assessment snapshot to meet the minimum enrollment for other components of existing accountability systems. Traditional accountability systems are currently insensitive to the challenges faced by many of the alternative education-focused entities across the state.

#### **Pilot Program**

Alternative Education Entities (AEEs) that meet certain eligibility requirements and apply using the offered pilot program application will have Michigan's proposed alternative accountability system computed for them for diagnostic purposes. It will represent a differentiated and more flexible way of holding schools accountable compared to that of traditional schools. In future years, AEEs and the AEE student population will be handled entirely separate from the Michigan School Scorecard. This means that AEEs will not receive a scorecard and the student population comprising the AEE will not contribute to district-level scorecards, rather they will exclusively contribute to the alternative accountability system once in statewide implementation.

Participating in the pilot Scorecard for Alternative Schools program is completely voluntary. The MDE is committed to partnering with school districts operating alternative schools statewide and offering them the chance to participate in the development of this new, differentiated accountability system through the pilot. By participating we will be periodically collecting feedback and suggestions from your school regarding the process, data, and end results. Your participation will help us establish meaningful, proactive targets for alternative schools and will help define the Scorecard for Alternative Schools program for full implementation in future years.

#### **Next Steps and Timeline**

The MDE is working with Michigan stakeholders and the U.S. Department of Education to establish the elements included in the Scorecard for Alternative Schools. The pilot program will help determine final recommendations for the full statewide alternative accountability system. The MDE will collect applications to participate in this pilot program. Details on the pilot eligibility, application and timeline will be posted shortly. For questions regarding accountability for alternative schools, please contact Alexander Schwarz at [schwarz@michigan.gov](mailto:schwarz@michigan.gov).