



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT

March 20, 2014

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Carol Wolenberg, Deputy Superintendent *Carol*

SUBJECT: School Safety Data and School Infrastructure Database Collection

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and the Center for Education Performance and Information (CEPI) have been collecting school safety data in the School Infrastructure Database (SID) to inform policy decisions and allocate resources at the state and local levels. Recent investigative reports by state and local media have called the accuracy of some data into question.

While CEPI has provided data quality reports to help districts identify where there may be issues with the accuracy of their data, MDE wants to ensure that districts have as much data as possible in hopes that any anomalies are brought to light and corrected. Within a few days, you and the authorized SID users in your district will be receiving an email communication from CEPI with some sample school safety indicators and comparison data points.

MDE has teamed with CEPI to create a report that compares SID data to similar data drawn from the Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth (MiPHY) student survey. Not every question in the MiPHY survey ties to a SID characteristic, but for those questions that do compare, districts will be able to judge how well their SID data seems to be reflected in the survey results for each building's students. If large discrepancies are seen, the district should look at their SID collection methods for that characteristic to make sure that the method used to collect and report the data captures the most accurate picture of the conditions in the building as possible. MDE believes this comparison will allow districts to look at SID data in a different light and provide ideas on areas where SID collection can be strengthened.

The last completed MiPHY survey was during the 2011/12 school year, so it will be compared to the 2012 SID submission. Those districts that did not participate in the 2011/12 MiPHY survey will receive summary data from their 2013 SID collection to review.

Questions related to the MiPHY and School Health and Safety may be directed to the Coordinated School Health and Safety Programs unit at (517) 241-4284. Questions regarding the SID and the report may be directed to the Center for Education Performance and Information by calling (517) 335-0505 and selecting option 3.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

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