



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 28, 2021

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

FROM: Michael F. Rice, Ph.D., State Superintendent 

SUBJECT: Continued Engagement with Local and Regional Stakeholders – MEMO
#COVID-19-156

Several times since the pandemic began nearly one year ago, I have encouraged you as local and regional leaders to engage a wide range of internal and external stakeholders.

In a July 24, 2020 MDE [COVID memo](#), I highlighted the critical role of ISDs in providing regional coordination and sharing and called on ISDs to work together with traditional public school districts *and public school academies (PSAs)* to facilitate improved communication during the crisis.

We still face difficult times. These difficult times require those of us who may in normal times see ourselves in competition with one another to collaborate and cooperate.

It has come to my attention—again—that there are PSAs that are not receiving notification of health-related matters from ISD superintendents within whose regions they are situated. Under the circumstances—life and death for many—I would appreciate it if every health-related communication sent by an ISD to traditional public school districts is shared with PSA directors and that PSA directors be included in all health-related meetings convened by the ISD. We know that when there is timely communication on health and safety, it can help mitigate the health risks for our children, staff, and parents, which should be our collective goal.

As you lead locally and regionally, I appreciate your continued consideration of this important theme.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors

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