



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** July 24, 2020

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

**FROM:** Michael F. Rice, Ph.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MFR", enclosed in a hand-drawn oval.

**SUBJECT:** Engaging With Local and Regional Stakeholders - MEMO #COVID-19-078

As you are aware, there are still significant unknowns about COVID-19 and the re-beginning of school in the coming weeks. At this time of uncertainty, it is particularly important that we all collaborate to ensure the health of our children, staff, and families and the education of our children.

In the spring, I encouraged you as local leaders to engage all your internal and external stakeholders—your staff, your unions, and your parents particularly—as you developed and implemented plans first for the spring and then later for the coming year. This engagement—this collaboration—is critical. However, it shouldn't end there.

The governor's [Executive Order 2020-142](#) requires each school district and nonpublic school to make its own school preparedness plan. The executive order requires schools and districts to work cooperatively with local public health officials. These requirements hold for all local education agencies (LEAs), both traditional public school districts and public school academies; for nonpublic schools, both private and parochial; and for intermediate school districts (ISDs).

ISDs can play especially important roles in the regional coordination, sharing, and implementation of needed distance learning plans and appropriated resources related to and the sharing about COVID-19.

I appreciate that all of you juggle multiple challenges in your local and regional communities. I also appreciate that many of you have reached out to colleagues during the pandemic with whom you have at times competed. Thanks to those of you who have typically included or recently begun to include in your ISD meetings the leaders of public school academies, tribal communities, parochial schools, and private schools. To the extent that you have not and are able to do so—in the spirit of

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

CASANDRA E. ULBRICH – PRESIDENT • PAMELA PUGH – VICE PRESIDENT  
MICHELLE FECTEAU – SECRETARY • TOM MCMILLIN – TREASURER  
TIFFANY D. TILLEY – NASBE DELEGATE • JUDITH PRITCHETT  
LUPE RAMOS-MONTIGNY • NIKKI SNYDER

608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909  
www.michigan.gov/mde • 833-633-5788

collaboration and in the interest of health, safety, and welfare of children, staff, and families in our communities during the pandemic—it would be very helpful.

I will be working with leaders of the Michigan Association of Superintendents and Administrators, the Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators, the Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors, the Michigan Association of Public School Academies, the Michigan Council of Charter School Authorizers, and the Michigan Association of Nonpublic Schools to assist in facilitating improved communication during this crisis.

As you continue to lead locally and regionally, thank you for your consideration of this important theme.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance  
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors