



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 2, 2021

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

FROM: Kyle L. Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent
Finance and Operations KG

SUBJECT: Expansion of the ENGAGE Michigan Attendance Recovery Program

As the 2021-22 school year begins, it is important that the needs of our students who may have fully or partially disengaged from their education, or are struggling academically due to the COVID-19 pandemic, are addressed.

To assist districts, teachers, students, and families, the Michigan legislature appropriated additional funding of \$6 million ([MCL 388.1625i](#)) for the expansion of the *ENGAGE Michigan* program. In partnership with Graduation Alliance, *ENGAGE Michigan* will assist those students and families who are struggling to adapt to new learning schedules and environments brought on by the pandemic.

The *ENGAGE Michigan* program brings an experienced student outreach and coaching team to:

- reach students who have disengaged from their education;
- identify and mitigate the obstacles preventing engagement;
- provide the services of a personal academic coach to help the student learn the skills necessary to succeed in their current learning environment and connect, as necessary, with local resources;
- monitor the student's pace and progress throughout the school year; and
- provide support that the student needs to stay engaged, to ensure that the student continues learning and earning credit toward graduation.

This program is being offered to all local education agencies, both traditional public school districts and public school academies. Districts must visit EngageMI.GraduationAlliance.com to participate and opt-in for services.

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

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Districts will need to identify a primary contact, an estimate of the number of students who have not engaged in learning, or those who would benefit from *Engage Michigan*.

For questions and information regarding *Engage Michigan*, please email EngageMI@graduationalliance.com.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors