



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** August 24, 2017

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

**FROM:** Venessa A. Keesler, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent *V. Keesler*  
Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports

**SUBJECT:** Michigan Educator Evaluation State-Approved Tool List

MCL 380.1249(5) of Michigan's educator evaluation law prescribes that the department establish and maintain a list of teacher evaluation tools meeting the legislative guidelines of being reliable, valid, and efficacious. The department was charged with the responsibility of promulgating rules establishing standards and procedures for adding an evaluation tool to or removing an evaluation tool from the list. The rules were to include a process for a school district, intermediate school district, or public school academy to submit its own evaluation tool for review for placement on the list.

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has promulgated rules creating the process by which school districts, intermediate school districts, public school academies, or private organizations may submit candidate tools for inclusion on the state-approved list, provided they meet the required criteria. The Michigan Educator Evaluation Tool Scoring Guide provides the framework and mechanism through which the applications for educator evaluation tools will be evaluated for potential inclusion on the list of state-approved tools.

External stakeholder input derived from multiple publicly held feedback sessions informed the rules promulgation process which directly guided the development of the application process. Additionally, the application and scoring guide was reviewed by a Technical Advisory Committee comprised of numerous independent experts prior to public release and implementation.

School districts, intermediate school districts, and public school academies are not limited to only using the evaluation tools that are included on the state approved list. Additionally, a school district, intermediate school district, or public school academy is not required to use an evaluation tool for teacher evaluations that is the same as it

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uses for school administrator evaluations or that has the same author or authors as the evaluation tool it uses for school administrator evaluations.

The Michigan Educator Evaluation Tool Application process description documents and the application forms can be accessed through the Office of Educator Talent Webpage at [www.michigan.gov/mde-evals](http://www.michigan.gov/mde-evals)

For additional information on educator evaluations, see [www.michigan.gov/mde-evals](http://www.michigan.gov/mde-evals) or send questions to [MDE-EdEvals@michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-EdEvals@michigan.gov)

Cc: Michigan Education Alliance