



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

SHEILA A. ALLES
INTERIM STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 17, 2018

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

FROM: Sheila A. Alles 
Interim State Superintendent

SUBJECT: Final Waiver Request for Innovative Assessment in Michigan

Following a required public comment period, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has submitted its request for a waiver from the United States Department of Education (USED) to allow up to 5% of Michigan school districts to develop and administer an innovative assessment system for eventual use as their state test. The intent is that these innovative assessments could be used in lieu of the M-STEP in certain grades and content areas. This is a Michigan Top 10 Education State in 10 Years initiative.

The MDE feels this initiative is tied to a desire to innovate in our assessment system, as well as the growing desire to develop and nurture competency-based instruction in our schools.

The MDE laid out this intent in our approved ESSA plan submitted to USED and needs to seek an official waiver from the department to begin this initiative.

Per guidelines, MDE posted a draft of this waiver for public comment during the period of April 24, 2018 through May 11, 2018. During that time, the MDE received one comment in support of the waiver.

The final waiver request may be viewed at:

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/2018-05-16_Michigan_ESSA_Waiver_Request_-_Innovative_Assessments_623217_7.pdf

For questions, please contact Janet Ellis-Jarzemkowski, Communications and Process specialist, Office of Educational Assessment & Accountability at ellisj@michigan.gov or 517-373-9391.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

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