



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 25, 2021

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

FROM: William Pearson, Ed.D., Interim Deputy Superintendent
Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports *WAP*

SUBJECT: Michigan Alternative Route to Interim Teacher Certification Programs

As part of the ongoing strategic efforts of the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) to increase the number of certified educators in critical shortage areas in Michigan and to diversify the workforce, MDE approves and maintains oversight of Michigan alternative route to interim teacher certification (MARITC) programs. The purpose of this memo is to inform local education agencies (LEAs), both traditional public school districts and public school academies (PSAs), about MARITC programs and interim teaching certificates (ITCs).

MARITC programs may serve any of the following purposes:

1. Meet the demand for qualified teachers in high-need certification areas;
2. Recruit teachers to staff schools in high-need LEAs;
3. Increase the number of qualified teacher candidates from historically underrepresented populations;
4. Provide rigorous, high quality preparation through an expedited track to certification; and
5. Provide a pathway for professionals in other fields to transition into a career in teaching.

MDE encourages LEAs to engage in partnerships with MARITC programs as a recruitment method for staffing schools and to consider hiring teachers that hold Michigan ITCs.

ITCs are valid for five years and are considered full educator licensure in Michigan. To progress to a standard teaching certificate, an individual must teach successfully for three years under an ITC. As with any teacher new to the profession, teachers with an ITC must be assigned a mentor.

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[Further information about MARITC programs and ITCs](#) is available on the MDE website, along with a [directory of MARITC providers](#). Questions may be directed to MDE-EducatorHelp@Michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors