



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

October 5, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Mike Flanagan 

SUBJECT: Presentation of Plan to Advance Teacher Preparation

Over a year ago, I convened an advisory group and launched an initiative to examine teacher preparation in Michigan. Concerns that you expressed, as well as my own observations that began during my initial interview with you, led me to engage in this study. From the advisory group, I gathered advice which I reviewed and discussed with my administrative team.

Advisory group members included deans and directors of teacher preparation institutions; associate deans of education; associate professors of education; teachers, parents, principals, business leaders and MDE staff. The advisory group convened for nine day-long sessions and "met" in online discussions and subcommittee meetings to provide advisory suggestions to me. The advice they sent me was nearly unanimous. I studied and discussed the advice with my administrative team over the course of several months. After study, discussion, and debate, I have developed a plan for teacher preparation, some of which is highlighted in the following paragraphs, that will be presented to you in detail at the October 9, 2007 State Board of Education meeting.

Research indicates to teacher effectiveness as the consistent influence that impacts student learning. We agreed that the most important goal is to have ALL students achieving at high levels with teachers who can effectively create and facilitate engaging learning environments and deliver high quality instruction.

Several goals emerged in the study of teacher preparation in Michigan:

- Improve coordination and alignment of teacher preparation to the current teacher workforce.
- Increase the available research information to inform teacher preparation and teacher preparation policy.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

KATHLEEN N. STRAUS – PRESIDENT • JOHN C. AUSTIN – VICE PRESIDENT
CAROLYN L. CURTIN – SECRETARY • MARIANNE YARED MCGUIRE – TREASURER
NANCY DANHOF – NASBE DELEGATE • ELIZABETH W. BAUER
REGINALD M. TURNER • CASANDRA E. ULBRICH

608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
www.michigan.gov/mde • (517) 373-3324

- Reorient the accountability relationship between Michigan's teacher preparation institutions and the Michigan Department of Education from a focus on regulation and compliance toward more attention on program performance, collaboration, and outcomes.

In this plan, the following actions will have the most dramatic impact:

- Mandatory national accreditation for all teacher preparation institutions.
- Statewide research collaborative focusing on pressing issues in teacher preparation and quality, focusing first on teacher supply and demand.
- Annual Michigan-specific priority for which teacher preparation institutions will be evaluated, with first priority being the preparation of teachers to integrate technology into instructional practices.
- Reform of teacher testing to include a demonstration of teaching skills.
- Establishment of a three-tiered teacher licensure system.

Tuesday's presentation will give you the full scope of work this initiative will involve. I look forward to a productive discussion.