

Education CONNECTION

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Culture of Reading Program Awards Books to Thousands of Michigan Children

Mr. Mike Flanagan 12/06/14
On behalf of the students at North Star Academy who will be receiving a copy of "Acoustic Rooster & His Barnyard Band", I sincerely thank you for this award! Our reading scores continue to climb & opportunities like this help us get more books into their hands! Mrs. Linda Wagner

Children in 115 Michigan elementary classrooms and early childhood programs received their own books to read and take home in the first award of the Michigan Department of Education's Culture of Reading program.

Over 3,000 copies of the 2014 Michigan Reads! Book of the Year, Acoustic Rooster and his Barnyard Band, were delivered to the children across the state.

"Kids received their own books and reading instruction to help them on their way to a lifetime of learning and reading for enjoyment," State Superintendent Mike Flanagan said. "I want to thank the many individuals, businesses, and organizations who financially supported this first year of the Culture of Reading. Their contributions helped make this happen."

Culture of Reading awards were given to 23 kindergarten classrooms; 23 first grade classrooms; 21 second grade classrooms; 24 third grade classrooms; and 24 early childhood programs.

You can learn more by logging on to: www.michigan.gov/cultureofreading. There you can make an online donation or get information about how to donate by check, as well as find links to other similar initiatives.

M-STEP Spring 2015 Preview

The M-STEP Spring 2015 Preview is now available for Michigan students and teachers.

The preview is intended to provide students and teachers with a brief look at the technology-enhanced item types they are likely to see for English language arts (ELA) and mathematics. Students will also have an opportunity to use the navigation tools and features of the online delivery engine. Students and teachers may log into the Spring 2015 Preview as often as they like.

Please note: The Spring 2015 Preview is just that, a preview of the item types and system tools. It does not represent all standards for ELA and mathematics, nor all grade levels. A more complete M-STEP sample will be released in early 2015.

The M-STEP Spring 2015 Preview **must** be used in Google Chrome. Copy and paste this link into Chrome <https://wbte.drctdirect.com/MI/portals/mi/ott1>. Click on the 2015 Preview Link, you will then need to click to sign on. Once on the sign in page, use the username and password displayed on the screen to log in.

Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

Do you know or are you an exemplary math or science teacher in **seventh through twelfth grade**? Please consider nominating him/her/them for the PAEMST Awards. The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching is the highest recognition a K-12 teacher can receive for outstanding science or mathematics teaching in the United States.



Why apply? Recipients of the award receive the following:

- A certificate signed by the President of the United States.
- A paid trip for two to Washington, D.C., to attend a series of recognition events and professional development opportunities.
- A \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation.

Nominations are being accepted online (www.paemst.org) for the 2015 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Teachers may nominate themselves or someone else (e.g., principals, teachers, parents, or other members of the general public) may nominate them for this award. **The PAEMST Online Application opened on November 1, 2015.** To apply, teachers must first be nominated for the award. Once nominated, teachers will receive an email with a login and password to access the online application. The application deadline for secondary teachers (Grades seven through twelve) is May 1, 2015. Elementary teachers (Kindergarten through sixth grade) are eligible to apply in 2016.

COLLEGE GOAL SUNDAY

College-bound students and their families can find help in February tackling the Free Application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA from hundreds of 2015 MI College Goal volunteers at 30 sites across Michigan.

Most sites host their event Sunday, February 8, 2015, from 2-4 p.m. However, some events are on other dates and times. Please check www.micollegegoal.org to find the nearest site and its event schedule.

MI College Goal is a partnership of the Michigan Department of Education; Michigan Guaranty Agency; Michigan Student Financial Aid Association; and EduGuide.

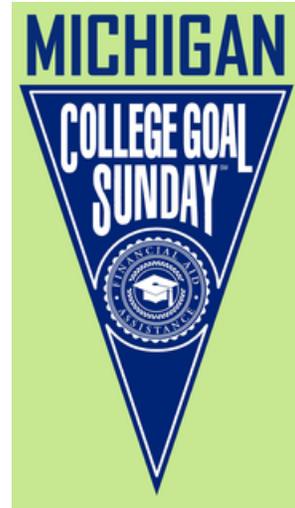
The program was created to increase the number of Michigan students who continue education beyond high school and earn post-secondary degrees.

The FAFSA is required of any student seeking financial aid including grants, loans, and many scholarships. Last year, more than 950 students received help at MI College Goal events.

Statistics show that students who submit FAFSA forms are more likely to go on to college.

During MI College Goal, financial aid experts will be available, at no charge, to guide students and their parents through each step of completing and filing the FAFSA.

For a complete list of 2015 MI College Goal events, visit www.micollegegoal.org.



New Process for State Continuing Education Clock Hours

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is pleased to announce that the seat time requirement to demonstrate attendance at State Continuing Education Clock Hour (SCECH) sessions will be streamlined. Beginning immediately, instead of documenting attendance through "sign in/out" or "stamp in/out," the requirement only will require a one-time identification method. That method can be determined by the individual SCECH provider, and might include options such as: picking up a name badge; turning in the SCECH identification form before leaving; or participation in an activity during a professional learning opportunity.

Michigan's Professional Learning Policy and Standards for Professional Learning can be accessed here: http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-6530_30334-342124--,00.html.

Strong Start | Healthy Start is an initiative of the Ingham County Health Department to enhance the health of African-American families and improve birth outcomes in Ingham County.



Upcoming Events

[Michigan Career Education Conference](#), February 1-3, 2015

[State Board of Education Meeting](#), February 10, 2015

[Michigan Science Teachers Association Conference](#), February 27-28, 2015

[AdvancED Michigan/MDE Spring School Improvement Conf](#), March 16-17, 2015

[MI Assoc for the Education of Young Children Early Childhood Conf](#), April 23-25, 2015

[Michigan Division for Early Childhood Conference](#), May 1, 2015

