



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

April 23, 2015

**MEMORANDUM**

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

FROM: Venessa A. Keesler, Ph.D. *V. Keesler*  
Deputy Superintendent, Education Services

Susan Broman *SB*  
Deputy Superintendent, Office of Great Start

SUBJECT: Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA)

In recent years the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has increased efforts to improve continuity and development of programming from birth through age eight. Part of these initiatives has included piloting Michigan's Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) as well as other 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade assessments. For the 2015-16 school year, the MDE plans to implement a revised KEA which includes a reduced number of observation tasks. In the coming weeks, Superintendents will receive district, school, and teacher registration information.

Below is a timeline of events over the next few months for those interested in the 2015-16 KEA:

- **District Registration Window** – April 30 – August 15, 2015
- **State provided teacher training** (2-days) in June, July, and August to be held at locations throughout the state. This will provide teachers with depth of knowledge for how to provide developmentally appropriate practices aligned with Michigan's K-12 Standards. The dates and locations below are tentative:
  - June 16 – 18, Grand Rapids and Novi
  - July 20 – 23, Sault Ste. Marie and Traverse City
  - August 10 – 13, Location TBD

Only teachers from registered districts will be able to attend. Teachers not only have their travel costs covered, but will also receive a daily stipend for their attendance at one of these trainings upon successful completion of the Inter-Rater Reliability Module (\$250/day).

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- **Teacher Training Registration Windows**

- District must register by the following dates for teachers from their districts to attend the summer trainings:
  - May 29<sup>th</sup> for teachers to attend June trainings
  - June 30<sup>th</sup> for teachers to attend July trainings
  - July 31<sup>st</sup> for teachers to attend August trainings

At this point the MDE has a plan to support participating teachers with regional coaches up until Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015. However, because the 2016-17 state budget has not yet been finalized, the MDE recommends districts have their own district or ISD/RESA plan to support KEA teachers after Sept. 30.

The MDE recognizes the significant time involved in utilizing this tool and is taking steps towards its continuous improvement which includes the potential for few assessment items. The MDE is hoping to help districts consider how to streamline their current assessment efforts to include the KEA.

Should you have any questions please contact Jen Paul at [paulj@michigan.gov](mailto:paulj@michigan.gov).

We're looking forward to your district's participation and integrating this into our statewide system of support.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance