



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 23, 2020

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

FROM: Michael F. Rice, Ph.D., State Superintendent 

SUBJECT: Michigan Department of Education's 2020 Annual Report

The Michigan Department of Education's [2020 Annual Report](#) shares updates on several areas in which the department's work was focused over the past year—support for schools and school districts during the COVID-19 pandemic, revision of the state's strategic education plan, the path forward for special education, anti-racism efforts, literacy, and supports for social emotional learning and children's mental health.

Showing progress made during and despite the pandemic, the report features the State Board of Education's approval in August 2020 of a streamlined strategic education plan that, while retaining the mission and vision of the original 2016 Top 10 plan, has amended guiding principles, operationalizable goals, metrics associated with each goal, and opportunities in the mid-term for districts to share best practices with one another in the different goal areas.

The annual report also focuses on the profound changes in supports for schools and districts given the advent of the pandemic in March, with the sudden and unanticipated shift from traditional methods of in-person instruction to those that required educating students at a distance.

As we continue to face COVID-19's challenges, we salute the hard work and dedication of our educators and support staff. The team at the Michigan Department of Education appreciates the opportunity to support you in the education of our public school children across the state.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors

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