



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



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September 30, 2010

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Sally Vaughn, Ph.D. *Sally*
Deputy Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer

SUBJECT: Public Act 110 of 2010 Section 101(10): Online Professional
Development Requirement for Michigan Teachers

The intent of this memo is to clarify the updated language of the School Aid Act Section 101(10) as found on page 50 of Public Act 110 of 2010, Section 101.(10) related to online professional development for Michigan teachers (<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2009-2010/publicact/pdf/2010-PA-0110.pdf>).

The text of Public Act 110 of 2010 Section 101(10), effective July 8, 2010, reads:

(10) A district may count up to 38 hours of qualifying professional development for teachers as hours of pupil instruction. Professional development provided online is allowable and encouraged, as long as the instruction has been approved by the district. The department shall issue a list of approved online professional development providers, which shall include the Michigan Virtual University. However, if a collective bargaining agreement that provides more than 38 but not more than 51 hours of professional development for teachers is in effect for employees of a district as of October 1, 2006, then until the fiscal year that begins after the expiration of that collective bargaining agreement a district may count up to 51 hours of qualifying professional development for teachers as hours of pupil instruction. A district that elects to use this exception shall notify the department of its election. As used in this subsection, "qualifying professional development" means professional development that is focused on 1 or more of the following:

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- (a) Achieving or improving adequate yearly progress as defined under the no child left behind act of 2001, Public Law 107-110.
- (b) Achieving accreditation or improving a school's accreditation status under section 1280 of the revised school code, MCL 380.1280.
- (c) Achieving highly qualified teacher status as defined under the no child left behind act of 2001, Public Law 107-110.
- (d) Integrating technology into classroom instruction.
- (e) Maintaining teacher certification.

Per the updated legislative language above, "...Professional development provided online is **ALLOWABLE AND ENCOURAGED**, as long as the instruction has been approved by the district..." This means that online professional development is no longer a requirement for counting the 38 hours of professional development as part of the instructional year.

The Michigan Legislature also left the ultimate authority to approve online professional development with the local school district. It is helpful to point out that the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) currently has approved online offerings from Michigan Virtual University. MDE also considers any online offering approved by an intermediate school district to satisfy the recommendation.

For tracking purposes, districts should use Category 7 (Virtual Learning) in Field 24 in the Registry of Educational Personnel (REP) to track online professional development.

A professional development referent group has been assembled by MDE and is working on a guidance document on quality professional development that will apply to both offline and online formats. In the meantime, for more information on quality online experiences, please go to http://michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-6530_5683_5703-36962--,00.html for Professional Development Characteristics of Quality and to http://michigan.gov/documents/mde/Online10.06_final_175750_7.pdf for the Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) Guidelines for Online Experience.

If you have questions related to the online professional development section of the legislation, please contact Donna Hamilton (HamiltonD3@Michigan.gov) or Bonnie Rockafellow (RockafellowB@Michigan.gov).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance