



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

SHEILA A. ALLES
INTERIM STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 30, 2019

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

FROM: Dr. Scott M. Koenigsknecht, Deputy Superintendent 
P-20 System and Student Transitions

SUBJECT: Michigan Department of Education's Prenatal through Age 8 (P-8)
Priority Initiative

[Michigan's Top 10 in 10 Strategic Plan](#) states that we will further develop a more coherent and aligned education system at all levels.

Using the work of Fullan, Kirtman, and others, leadership at the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has identified [three priorities](#) (P-8, Whole Child, and Early Literacy) to provide a focused direction and to guide the work at the department during the next few years. These three priorities are designed to sharpen our focus in the department; to increase cross-agency work within the department, and to explicitly link that work to Michigan's Top 10 in 10 Strategic Plan.

Over the past few months, MDE has put efforts into defining its P-8 Priority Initiative, defining the scope of it, and developing a webpage (www.michigan.gov/mde-p8) as a means to communicate its efforts as it continues to enhance and develop connections and alignment among our early childhood care and education, K-12, and other departmental efforts. Several of the current efforts underway associated with the P-8 Priority Initiative connect to Michigan's Top 10 in 10 Goals 1, 2, 3, and 5.

Any questions regarding this memo may be directed to Richard Lower, Director, Office of Preschool and Out-of-School Time Learning and P-8 Priority Initiative Staff Lead, at lowerr@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

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