



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** August 20, 2020

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

**FROM:** Kyle L. Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent *KG*  
Finance and Operations

**SUBJECT:** Constitutionally Protected Prayer and Constitution Day Certifications

As you start the 2020-21 school year, you are dealing with all the challenges related to adapting to the realities of COVID-19. While many past practices are not applicable this coming year, there are still some required actions needed to secure your federal funding. This notice provides information regarding the submission procedure for certifying your district's compliance for constitutionally protected prayer and Constitution Day. All certifications are due **September 18, 2020**.

**Constitutionally Protected Prayer**

The U.S. Department of Education (USED) requires that each local or intermediate school district or public school academy, as a condition of receiving funds under any portion of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965 as amended, annually certify to the state agency that it has no policy that prevents, or otherwise denies participation in, constitutionally protected prayer in public schools.

A district's failure to submit the required certification may result in the district's loss of funding under ESEA.

**Constitution Day**

Public Law 108-447 requires all educational institutions receiving federal funds to hold an educational program on the United States Constitution on September 17, 2020, for the students served by the educational institution. Questions regarding this program may be directed to Jim Cameron at the Michigan Department of Education. You can contact him at 517-241-9913 or [cameronj3@michigan.gov](mailto:cameronj3@michigan.gov).

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**Each district must submit both certifications** through the Michigan Electronic Grants System Plus (MEGS+). NOTE: Individual school buildings DO NOT have to certify in MEGS+. To view the instructions, click [here](#).

The MEGS+ submission will meet the requirements of the statutes. Questions regarding this electronic process may be directed to the Grants & Contracts Unit at [megs@michigan.gov](mailto:megs@michigan.gov).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance  
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors