



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 8, 2019

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

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 20, 2019**.

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.

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is required to provide the USED a list of all districts not providing MDE with this certification, by November 1, 2019. 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, 2019, for the students served by the educational institution. If the 17th falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, the law allows the celebration to be held during the preceding or following week. Questions regarding this program may be directed to Jim Cameron at 517-241-9913 or cameronj3@michigan.gov.

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 Grants Coordination and School Support at 517-241-5386.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

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