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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

November 10, 2011

MEMORANDUM

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

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

SUBJECT: Public Comment Period for Revised Professional Learning Policy,
Standards, and Guidance

In August 2003, the State Board of Education (SBE) approved the *Updated Professional Development Vision and Standards for Michigan Educators*, including the adoption of the 2001 National Staff Development Council's standards for staff development. The SBE subsequently approved the *State Professional Learning Strategic Plan* in April 2006.

Recent state and federal reform initiatives focused on teacher effectiveness, including School Improvement Grants, the Teacher Incentive Fund, the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, Michigan's Tenure Act, Performance Evaluation Systems, and the Governor's education reform initiatives, have necessitated review and updates to these professional learning policies and standards.

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE), in collaboration with Great Lakes East Comprehensive Center at the American Institutes for Research, organized a professional learning workgroup representative of various stakeholder groups to review and update Michigan's professional learning policy and standards. The revised policy statement, guidance document, and standards have been presented to the SBE and are available for review at www.michigan.gov/mde and public comment via survey at <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22CGTSR6BC4/> from November 10, 2011 through December 8, 2011.

Feedback and comments received will be used to revise and finalize the policy and guidance documents. It is anticipated that the policy statement and standards will be taken back to the SBE for approval in January 2012.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

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