



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** August 11, 2016

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

**FROM:** Kyle Guarrant, Deputy Superintendent *KG*

**SUBJECT:** Required Certifications

The purpose of this notice is to provide you with information regarding the submission procedure for certifying your district's compliance for constitutionally protected prayer, eye protective devices, and Constitution Day. All certifications are due **September 23, 2016**.

**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 School 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.

MDE is required by November 1, 2016, to provide the USED a list of all districts not providing MDE with this certification. A district's failure to submit the required certification may result in the district's loss of funding under ESEA.

**Eye Protective Devices**

State law requires all public schools and public school academies to provide adequate eye protective devices for students enrolled in courses where danger to the eye exists [MCL 380.1288]. Administrative Code Rules governing Eye Protective Devices require that all public schools and public school academies certify compliance with this requirement.

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**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, 2016, 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](mailto:cameronj3@michigan.gov).

**Each district must submit all three 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 517-373-1806.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance