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STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

August 30, 2012

MEMORANDUM

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

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

SUBJECT: Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium's Technology Readiness Survey

In the 2014-15 school year, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) anticipates transitioning to online assessments developed by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC). While a paper version of the SBAC assessments will be available for the first three years of administration, it is important that Michigan schools make significant progress towards technology readiness in order to take full advantage of this next-generation, online assessment system.

In preparation for the online growth assessments, the Michigan Legislature appropriated \$50 million for competitive grants for the development or improvement of district technology infrastructure. In developing the application for these competitive grants, district participation in the Survey will likely be a consideration in the selection process. Currently, more than 30 percent of Michigan school districts completed this survey in the spring and provided valuable insight into the status of Michigan's technology readiness.

In addition to measuring current readiness levels, the SBAC Technology Readiness Assessment tool is designed to help state policy makers and local and regional boards of education determine the investments required to bring all schools up to adequate levels of technology readiness.

The next window to complete the Technology Readiness Assessment Survey is open and we encourage you to use it to update information on the technology available in your buildings. The information collected will enable all stakeholders, including

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policy makers, to work together to ensure that Michigan schools are prepared for the transition to online assessments.

It is strongly recommended that every district complete the Technology Readiness Assessment Survey.

- The second national Technology Readiness Assessment Survey collection window is open now and will be closed on September 30, 2012.
- Although SBAC will close the window for its data collection purposes, the MDE will continue to collect submissions until November 29, 2012.
- If your district has already completed the survey, please review your information to ensure it is current and accurate.

For more information on how to complete the survey, please visit www.TechPlan.org/. MDE staff has scheduled weekly webinars throughout September and October to provide your staff with the information they need to complete the survey by either September 30 or November 29, 2012.

- 9:00 a.m. Thursdays, September 6, 13, 20, and 27
- 1:00 p.m. Fridays, September 7, 14, 21, and 28
- 9:00 a.m. Thursdays, October 4, 11, and 18
- 1:00 p.m. Fridays, October 5, 12, and 19

The webinars can be accessed through Adobe Connect®:

- <http://remc.adobeconnect.com/techready>

The audio conference will be accessible through the following number:

- **Call-in Number: 215-861-0692, access code: 8828859#**

For more information, please email techready@michigan.gov.

PLEASE NOTE: the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium has published purchasing guidelines for school districts to use when acquiring computer technology. These guidelines are intended to ensure that technology purchases made by school districts will support the online assessment formats being developed. We strongly encourage districts to use the guidelines when making all future technology purchases. (<http://tinyurl.com/smarterbalancetech>)

If you have any questions related to this memo, please contact Bruce Umpstead at umpsteadb@michigan.gov or at 517-373-8480.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance