



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 6, 2020

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

FROM: Venessa A. Keesler, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent 
Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports

SUBJECT: Special Populations Conference 2020

The Michigan Department of Education's (MDE) 2020 Special Populations Conference will be offered in a new and reimagined setting.

In accordance with recommendations from Governor Gretchen Whitmer and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services [designed to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#), the 2020 Special Populations Conference will **not** be held in-person.

Instead, MDE will offer Special Pops EdCamp 2020, a blended event that will allow for live, interactive sessions along with pre-recorded webinars. The Special Pops EdCamp "Camp-tivities" will be provided to local school districts and intermediate school districts (ISDs) at no cost for 2020.

The Special Pops EdCamp 2020's theme is *Strengthening our Reach Together*. "Camp-tivities" will have a heavy focus on foundational information for each program, supportive information for educators in distance learning settings, and strategies to promote social and emotional learning for students with unique needs. Special Pops EdCamp 2020 will continue to offer targeted support for programs serving students identified as English learners, 31a at-risk eligible, migratory children and youth, or neglected and delinquent students, as well as students experiencing homelessness and foster care. It will also support cross-program promising practices, early literacy, and the implementation of a Multi-Tiered System of Supports.

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608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
www.michigan.gov/mde • 833-633-5788

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The Special Pops EdCamp 2020 registration information will be released on August 14, 2020, via memorandum and on the Office of Educational Supports [website](#).

Individuals who register will receive a copy of the Special Pops EdCamp 2020 "Camp-tivities." The "Camp-tivities" will contain information on signing up for live events as well as information on how to access the pre-recorded events. Please note: registration may be capped for some live events. "Camp-tivities" begin September 15, 2020 and run through October 1, 2020.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors