



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** October 14, 2020

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

**FROM:** Kyle L. Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent *KG*  
Finance and Operations

**SUBJECT:** MI Safety & Drill Planning Considerations for the 2020-2021 School Year  
- MEMO #COVID-19-127

In Michigan last year, there was a total of 103 fires in K-12 schools. As many school districts have re-begun classes in person, there are new students and teachers in every school and those returning have been away from the classroom for an extended amount of time. This year, as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Michigan schools are facing the difficult challenge of finding ways that allow teachers and students to return to the classroom while observing both social distancing and increased sanitation requirements, and continuing to provide a quality education for students. For these reasons, it is important to conduct regulated safety drills and follow the requirements set forth in law. The MI Safety & Drill Planning guidance for the 2020-2021 school year can be found at [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/MI\\_Safety\\_Drill\\_Guidance\\_Document\\_Final\\_704924\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/MI_Safety_Drill_Guidance_Document_Final_704924_7.pdf).

This guidance differentiates for schools educating at a distance, in-person, and in a hybrid. This guidance on drills and other safety considerations is a collaboration among the bureau of fire services, the State Fire Marshal in the Michigan Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA), and the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) to assist school administrators and staff in providing a safe learning environment.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the bureau of fire services at [lara-bfs@michigan.gov](mailto:lara-bfs@michigan.gov) or 517-388-1761; or contact Mary Teachout at MDE at [TeachoutM@Michigan.gov](mailto:TeachoutM@Michigan.gov).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance  
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors

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608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909  
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