



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

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GOVERNOR

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT

May 21, 2015

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Kyle Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent *KG*

SUBJECT: State School Aid Legislation, MCL 388.1621f, Clarification of Expanded Online Learning Requirements

Following recent inquiries from the field, the Department is issuing the following clarification of the membership requirements pertaining to Section 21f of the State School Aid Act [MCL 388.1621f].

Section 21f, otherwise known as the "Expanded Online Learning" legislation, allows pupils in grades 6 to 12 to enroll in online courses where each course is capable of generating credit or a grade while being provided in an interactive internet-connected learning environment. Under this section, the pupils are separated from their teacher by time or location, or both.

The Section 21f includes the following language:

"(1) A pupil enrolled in a district in any of grades 6 to 12 is eligible to enroll in an online course as provided for in this section."

This is to clarify that under Section 21f, there is no concurrent enrollment expectation, which would require a Section 21f pupil to also be taking another class on-site at the district in order to qualify for state school aid.

This understanding relies on the concept that the district can consider a pupil to be enrolled in the district without taking a class at the district. Additionally, Section 6(4) provides the following exception to the attendance requirements

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found in Section 6(8) and 6a for pupils enrolled under this section:

“...participation in an online course as defined in Section 21f is considered regular daily attendance.”

Please direct questions regarding this change to Brian Ciloski at ciloskib@michigan.gov or 517-373-3352.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance