



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 29, 2021

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

FROM: William A. Pearson, Ed.D., Interim Deputy Superintendent
Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports *WAP*

SUBJECT: 2021 Michigan Talent Pool

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) maintains a file of emerging classroom leaders, both teachers and principals, known as the Michigan Talent Pool. These educators may be considered for membership on advisory boards and task forces, as well as candidates for special recognition programs.

MDE is seeking recommendations for additional educators to the Michigan Talent Pool. Your recommendations will identify educators who will be of great value to your community and state and who may also ultimately receive recognition for their contributions and achievements.

We are very fortunate to have a rich base of veteran educators represented in our current talent pool. They have been, and continue to be, a valuable resource in our statewide efforts. In addition to more educators of color, the Michigan Talent Pool needs additional representation from educators relatively new to the profession, who work primarily with students in grades 6-12, and/or who demonstrate unusually advanced instructional and leadership abilities. These educators would need to exhibit strong potential for professional leadership and an inspiring presence that affects students, colleagues, and community.

We invite you to recommend distinguished classroom teachers and/or principals who have demonstrated all of the following:

- Exceptional educational talent as evidenced by effective instructional practices and student learning results in the classroom and school.
- Exemplary educational accomplishments beyond the classroom that provide models of excellence for the profession.

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- Contributions to education that are largely unheralded, yet worthy of the spotlight.
- Strong long-range potential for professional and policy leadership by early to mid-career educators.
- Engaging and inspiring presence that motivates students, colleagues, and the community.

To submit a Michigan Talent Pool recommendation, please complete the [online talent pool recommendation form](#). A one-page letter of recommendation explaining how the nominee meets the above criteria is required as part of a nomination form and can be uploaded as part of the online form. These recommendations are confidential and should not be discussed with the recommended educator or others in your school or community.

For questions regarding the Michigan Talent Pool, please email Josh Roesner at RoesnerJ1@Michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors