

Michigan ESSA: Teacher and Leader Quality Action Team Fact Sheet



Team Lead

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Information

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Purpose

This action team is working to identify and make recommendations regarding state, local, and national activities related to teacher and leader quality in ESSA, based on alignment and consistency with the MDE’s Top 10 in 10 strategic plan and aligned educator workforce programs and supports, including Michigan’s State Plan to Ensure Equitable Access to Excellent Educators.

Key Principles Guiding the Work of this Action Team

In addition to the common guiding principles of Michigan’s approach to the ESSA State Plan Development, the Teacher and Leader Quality Action team is working from the following guiding principles:

- Teacher and leader quality is a key driver of equitable education outcomes for all of Michigan’s students
- As the primary touchpoint for students, educators are the most important resource in Michigan’s education system
- In order to achieve equity, special attention and focus must be provided to the educator workforce in Michigan’s lowest-performing schools and Michigan’s schools that serve high-poverty and high-minority student populations
- Equity in teacher and leader quality, as well as the overall health of Michigan’s educator workforce, depends on coordination of policies to attract, prepare, develop, support, and retain effective educators

Opportunities

This action team specifically has the opportunity to align supports and opportunities for Michigan’s educator workforce across local, state, and federal systems in order to improve preparation, professional development, retention, and equitable access.

Outcomes/Deliverables

The Teacher and Leader Quality Action Team will help shape recommendations and guidance toward the implementation of a new Michigan-focused and ESSA compliant support system for Michigan’s education workforce. The work completed by this team will include:

- Development of a proposal for Michigan’s prioritized focus on allowable ESSA Title II state activities
- Development of a proposal for Michigan’s prioritized focus on allowable ESSA Title II local activities
- Development of a proposal for Michigan’s participation in ESSA Title II competitive national grant programs
- Integration of educator workforce supports into Michigan’s plan for high-needs districts and strategic partnerships

Members

First Name	Last Name	Organization	Position
Amber	Arellano	Education Trust Midwest	Executive Director
Roxanne	Balfour	MDE-OSE	Departmental Specialist
Suneet	Bedi	Education Trust Midwest	Data and Policy Analyst
Angi	Beland	Michigan Association of Public School Academies (MAPSA)	VP, Operations and Strategy
Anne	Blankenhorn	Michigan Senate	Senate Majority Policy Advisor
Helen	Brish	Michigan Education Association (MEA)	Field Services Consultant
Victor	Bugni	MDE-OEII	Action Team Lead - Using Data to Inform Instruction
Kristina	Campa-Gruca	Excellent Schools Detroit	K-12 Program Manager
Lauren	Childs	Oakland Schools	Supervisor for Instruction and Pedagogy
Annette	Christiansen	Utica Schools	ELA Secondary Systemwide Co-Chair
Josh	Cowen	Michigan State University	Associate Professor, College of Education
Kelley	Cusmano	Rochester Community Schools	HS English Teacher
Brian	Davis	Holland Public Schools	Superintendent
David	Donaldson	Education Achievement Authority	Associate Chancellor
Kaitlin	Ferrick	MDE-OGS	Director, Head Start State Collaboration
Heather	Gauk	Grand Rapids Public Schools	Special Education Teacher
Sarah	Giddings	WAVE Washtenaw	Curriculum Coordinator
Jill	Griffin	MDE-OEII	Urban Education Consultant
Abbie	Groff-Blaszak	MDE-OET	Action Team Lead - Teacher and Leader Quality
Pete	Haines	Ottawa Area ISD	Superintendent
Chanel	Hampton	Hampton Consulting	Founder and President
Tina	Harma	South Lyon Community Schools	Third Grade Teacher
Kelly	Hurshe	MDE-OGS	Consultant
Cassandra	Joss	Utica Schools	Third Grade Teacher
Kathy	Kanu-Thompson	Grand Rapids Public Schools	Fourth Grade Teacher
Bob	Kefgen	Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP)	Director of Government Relations
Tom	Knight	MDE-OCTE	Education Consultant
Sarah-Kate	Lavan	MDE-OPPS	Manager, Professional Preparation and Learning

Matt	McCullough	Onsted Community Schools	Assistant Principal and District Assessment/Curriculum Coordinator
Mischele	McManus	MDE-OGS	Education Consultant
Jared	Robinson	MDE-OET	Education Research Consultant
Michele	Sandro	MDE-OFS	
Megan	Schrauben	MDE-OEII	Integrated Education Consultant
Andrew	Steinman	Kent ISD	Educational Technology Consultant
Yolanda	Stephens	MDE - OET	Departmental Analyst
Jason	Strzalkowski	Van Buren Public Schools	Middle School Teacher
Mary	Teachout	MDE-OSSS	Health and Phys Ed Consultant
Leah	VanBelle	Wayne State University	Director, School Partnerships and Clinical Practice