



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 20, 2020

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

FROM: Sheila A. Alles, Chief Deputy Superintendent 

SUBJECT: Michigan's Top 10 Strategic Education Plan

A revised Top 10 strategic education plan was adopted by the State Board of Education during its regular meeting on August 11, 2020, following nearly a year of extensive input from a broad range of educational partners and stakeholders and Michigan citizens.

In 2015, late-State Superintendent Brian Whiston launched a strategic planning process with the state board which culminated in the passage of a Top 10 in 10 plan for the state. In 2019, in collaboration with the State Board of Education, State Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice announced an intention to update the strategic education plan.

[Michigan's Top 10 Strategic Education Plan](#) maintains the spirit of the original Top 10 in 10 plan that provided a very good beginning but needed to be updated. The revised Top 10 plan includes a mission statement and a vision statement, which are unchanged from the original plan; six guiding principles, which maintain the spirit of the original principles; eight new goals that are more directional and streamlined; and metrics for each goal area to help monitor Michigan's educational progress. The Top 10 strategic education plan is both a directional and an aspirational document in which local education agencies, education partners and stakeholders, and MDE can contribute to its implementation.

To update the plan, MDE conducted personal interviews and focus groups with State Board of Education members; education, business, and legislative leaders; tribal partners; and MDE staff. The department also conducted a public online survey this winter, which had nearly 12,000 respondents. The extensive input was reviewed by the state board of education and department staff, and eight long-term goal areas were developed. They are:

- Expand early childhood learning experiences
- Improve early literacy achievement

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- Improve the health, safety, and wellness of all learners
- Expand secondary learning opportunities for all students
- Increase the percentage of students who graduate from high school
- Increase the percentage of adults with a post-secondary credential
- Increase the numbers of certified teachers in areas of shortage
- Provide adequate and equitable school funding

Metrics are a critical component to the updated Top 10 strategic education plan. While the original Top 10 plan was aspirational, it needed to be updated with concise metrics for each goal that could measure Michigan's progress. The metrics will be reviewed and reported annually.

This is a collective document, both in its creation and its implementation. The strategic education plan was formed with widespread involvement. Its usefulness to educators in improving education for children will in part be manifest in the participation of educators moving forward.

A three-pronged strategy has been developed to achieve this outcome. The first strategy is to have a repository of contributions. The department will provide an online repository to which all 831 LEAs will have access. This online repository will provide LEAs with a venue to post their best practices or contributions to support the implementation of the Top 10 plan. LEAs will be able to post for each goal the best practices that they are using in their district that are having a positive influence on student achievement and success. Additionally, LEAs will be able to use this collection of contributions as they work on their own practices to meet children's needs in their districts.

The second strategy is to convene educators to share best practices. The department will bring educators together to create a community of learners to share best practices for each of the goals. Educators will convene to share their best practices, identify the research that supports the practice, provide details about the selection process and the implement strategy used for each best practice, discuss the positive effects of the practice on student outcomes, and offer an opportunity for others to ask clarifying questions or offer comments.

The third strategy is to create a series of written documents about the best practices with input from research and from LEA experience. This strategy will be a logical outgrowth of the best practices accumulations and convenings over a period of years. These documents will be made available as produced.

Dr. Rice, the MDE team, and I look forward to our continued work with you to support the children whom we collectively serve.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors