



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 8, 2020

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

FROM: Dr. Scott M. Koenigs knecht, Deputy Superintendent *SK*
P-20 System and Student Transitions

Dr. Venessa A. Keesler, Deputy Superintendent *VK*
Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports

Kyle L. Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent *KG*
Division of Finance and Operations

SUBJECT: Two-Way Student/Teacher Communication Flexibility for Early Middle College (EMC) and Dual Enrolled (DE) Students –MEMO #COVID-19-122

On August 20, 2020, Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed into law Public Acts 147, 148, and 149, which enacted the laws commonly referred to as the "Return to Learn Laws." Under these new laws, districts are required to have two-way interactions for three related, yet distinct, purposes during the 2020-21 school year.

On August 21, 2020, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) provided guidance in the memo [COVID 19-094 Return to Learn Law Details](#) and on September 28, 2020, provided further guidance on two-way communication in the memo [COVID-19-117](#). This memo provides additional guidance on two-way communication for EMC and DE students.

The law is clear that local education agencies (LEAs), both traditional public schools and public school academies (PSAs), must provide evidence of the two-way communications for all K-12 students who are participating in learning at a distance during the 2020-21 school year.

For early middle college and dual enrolled students taking college courses, there are four options for the person performing the required two-way interactions:

1. The district assigns a district-employed teacher of record to the course as a facilitator.

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2. The district assigns a district employee (mentor) who has responsibility for the pupil's learning, grade progression, or academic progress.
3. The district enters into a cooperative agreement with another district or intermediate school district to oversee the postsecondary enrollments, then either entity assigns a teacher of record to the course.
4. The district may enter into an agreement with the postsecondary faculty who will perform and track the interactions.

For additional information, please see the Pupil Accounting webinar at the [MDE Return to Learn Webinar Series](#) web page.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors