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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

June 14, 2012

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Sally Vaughn, Ph.D. *Sally*
Deputy Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer

SUBJECT: Seat Time Waiver Pilot K-5

The process to be used to apply for a Seat Time Waiver for the 2012-2013 school year under Section 101(9), of the State School Aid Act (MCL 388.1701(9)), was addressed in a memo dated May 24, 2012, which can be found at

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Seat_Time_Waiver_386737_7.pdf

Through this process, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction may waive the minimum number of hours and days of pupil instruction for Alternative Education programs or other innovative programs approved by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE).

With each step of the Seat Time Waiver process, the MDE has started with a pilot program format that allows MDE staff to assess instructional program quality and its impact on student achievement, as well as how to appropriately determine ways to count students that are not present in the traditional classroom and how to address staffing with quality instructors and mentors.

To continue with this measured approach, the MDE will, this year, conduct a limited pilot study for the K-5 level utilizing Oakland Schools and the Consortium for Change. During the pilot, both programs will submit data to the MDE to assist in making any determinations about the advisability of broadening this option to other schools in future years. Additionally, the state legislature is deliberating the possibility of removing the need for a waiver through HB 5392. Based on this consideration, the Superintendent of Public Instruction is deferring the expansion of Seat Time Waivers beyond its current status at this time.

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Oakland Schools has asked that it be able to conduct its pilot study within its boundaries and for districts located in all contiguous intermediate school districts. If your district or intermediate school district is contiguous to Oakland Schools, I encourage you to consider taking this opportunity to join the Oakland Schools K-5 Seat Time Waiver pilot, thus expanding opportunities for your students. For information, please contact Carol Klenow, Director of Oakland Schools K-8 Calvert Seat Time Waiver Program. She can be reached at 248-770-7955.

Additionally, the Genesee Intermediate School District (GISD) state wide waiver is still in effect. If your Seat Time Waiver program is course-based and you choose to use the courses that are housed on the GenNET Portal at <http://gennetonline.geneseeisd.org/stw.htm> you may apply to GISD to be included under the GISD statewide seat time waiver. Since a waiver is granted for a one year period, ALL districts must reapply for the 2012-2013 school year.

For additional questions, please contact Barb Fardell (Programmatic and Application Questions) at fardellb@michigan.gov or Kellie Flaminio (Application Questions) at flaminiok@michigan.gov

cc: Michigan Education Alliance