



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

## **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** November 18, 2021

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

**FROM:** Delsa D. Chapman, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent  
Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports 

**SUBJECT:** Teachers Seeking Employment and Districts Seeking Teachers

All students should have access to high-quality teachers. The *Welcome Back Proud Michigan Educator (PME)* campaign of the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), directed by the Office of Educator Excellence (OEE), is designed to help teachers enter or return to the classroom. Welcome Back Proud Michigan Educator creates a facilitated communication pathway to connect formerly certified teachers, or certified teachers who are not currently teaching, to districts with a need to hire.

Phase 1 of the campaign has allowed districts to apply for a waiver from MDE to reduce or eliminate the professional learning hours that a formerly certified teacher would otherwise need for recertification. Over 1,100 formerly certified teachers have provided information to be contacted by districts. To date, 163 districts have requested waivers for 235 educators.

Phase 2 of the campaign launched last month with a communication to over 35,000 *currently* certified educators who are not teaching in a public school.

Through Phase 1 and 2 combined, 339 districts across the state have requested to receive educator contact information or have requested a waiver. We appreciate their participation as we appreciate the opportunity to provide this service to you.

Districts wishing to receive contact information for teachers seeking employment should complete the request form linked [here](#) to be added to the weekly distribution list. Districts do not need to resubmit if already participating.

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The regions of the state have been divided into smaller areas to make it easier for districts to identify compatible candidates. For more information, please visit the [Welcome Back PME webpage](#).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance  
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors