



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



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PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

August 20, 2009

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Intermediate and Local School District Superintendents and Public School Academies Administrators

FROM: Carol Wolenberg, Deputy Superintendent *aw*

SUBJECT: U.S. Government Accountability Office ARRA Survey

We are writing to inform you that you may receive an online survey request from the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) regarding the spending of funds provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) and to ask for your immediate attention to this inquiry.

As you are aware, the Recovery Act requires the GAO to oversee how states spend recovery funds. Michigan is one of 16 states selected to be monitored by the GAO over the next few years. The GAO issued two bi-monthly reports to Congress, in April and July, and will continue reporting through calendar year 2011. As initial implementation of the Recovery Act unfolds, attention to accountability issues is essential, as are the unprecedented expectations and requirements for transparency.

Michigan has had three on-site visits from GAO. They have met with MDE staff as well as school district personnel in Detroit, Grand Rapids, Flint, Saginaw and Lansing. As part of the next phase of their monitoring process, the GAO has created an electronic survey to gather information from additional school districts. Within the next few days a random selection of approximately 130 districts, chosen by the GAO, will be sent a web-based questionnaire relating to the initial allocation of Recovery Act education funds, including Title I, IDEA and state fiscal stabilization dollars. The results of this survey will be summarized at the national and state level in the GAO's December bi-monthly report.

We strongly encourage your timely response to this survey.

cc: Jann Jencka, Michigan Economic Recovery Office  
William Mayes, MASA  
David Martell, MSBO  
Dan Quisenberry, MAPSA  
Billie Wimmer, MCCSA

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