



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



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SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

August 5, 2010

TO: Intermediate and Local School District Superintendents, Public School
Academy Administrators

FROM: Carol Wolenberg, Deputy Superintendent *Cawl*

SUBJECT: New Section 5-0-B Seat Time Waiver, Pupil Accounting Manual

On September 7, 2007, Superintendent Flanagan awarded the first seat time waiver to Traverse City Public Schools. Since that time an additional 22 districts and ISDs have received seat time waivers. Recognizing that this virtual learning opportunity should not be limited to a few select districts, the Superintendent has since allowed any Michigan district to participate under a seat time waiver by allowing them to sign up under the Genesee ISD seat time waiver. Genesee has put a process in place to ensure that students receive high quality instruction from a variety of resources and manages the district and student data to provide the required state reporting.

After careful review, the Michigan Department of Education has finalized a new Seat Time Wavier section in the Pupil Accounting Manual that takes effect beginning in the 2010-2011 school year. Seat time waivers offer flexibility to districts and provide alternative ways for students to learn. The purpose of the guidance is to clarify the requirements for counting pupils in membership. Requirements under existing seat time waiver approvals were incorporated into the guidance. The guidance protects students, provides concrete parameters, puts controls in place, and provides a safe harbor for districts who comply with the guidance. In addition, this guidance may be used as an accountability tool when evaluating districts for determining waiver renewals.

To access Section 5-0-B Seat Time Waiver in the Pupil Accounting Manual, go to http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-5235_6539-22360--,00.html

Questions regarding the content of this memo may be directed to JoEllen Wonsey, Office of State Aid and School Finance at 517.373.3352.

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