



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

August 11, 2023

The Honorable Miguel Cardona
Secretary of Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington DD 20202

Dear Secretary Cardona:

On behalf of the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), I am submitting proposed amendments to Michigan's approved Consolidated State Plan under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) for your review and approval. Specifically, MDE is proposing changes to Title I, Part A, Section 4 of Michigan's ESSA Plan, which outlines Michigan's statewide accountability system and school support and improvement activities. Proposed amendments are shown in red text in the attached document.

Michigan is committed to providing a high-quality education to all students, and these proposed amendments will better enable Michigan to highlight the excellent work of schools and districts in educating students while strengthening the ability to identify areas of need for continued improvement in a post-COVID school environment.

Below is a summary of the proposed amendments we are requesting:

- Resetting long-term goals and measures of interim progress (School Index targets) to use data from 2021-22. Existing targets reflected pre-pandemic performance and are set to expire after the 2024-25 school year. Refreshing the targets with 2021-22 data reflects the impact of the pandemic on Michigan's students.
- Updating the schedule of identifying schools for support.
- Updating supporting data for the School Quality/Student Success measures of the School Index System. Existing data supporting these measures date to almost a decade ago. Refreshing Michigan's Consolidated State Plan under ESSA with more recent data helps to show how these measures continue to be valid post-pandemic.
- Updating the methodology to identify public high schools failing to graduate one-third or more of their students for comprehensive support and improvement to reflect our current practice of supporting schools.

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- Adding the option for schools identified for additional targeted supports to exit their status before the next identification cycle if they meet the designated exit criteria.
- Strengthening MDE supports to identified schools, more specifically:
 - Differentiating support for districts with schools identified for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) across a continuum of levels between the Office of Educational Supports (OES) and Office of Partnership Districts (OPD).
 - Intensifying support for schools that are re-identified.
 - Using the partnership district model to support districts with a significant number of schools identified for CSI.
 - Using a resource allocation review process with districts serving a significant number of schools identified for support.

MDE consulted with education stakeholders and provided an opportunity for the public to comment on these proposed changes from June 22 to July 22, 2023. During the 30-day public comment period, MDE received feedback from 70 respondents. Where applicable, portions of the proposed recommendations were adjusted due to public comments.

We look forward to hearing from you regarding our proposed amendments. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael F. Rice". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael F. Rice, Ph.D.
State Superintendent
Michigan Department of Education