



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 14, 2023

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

FROM: Dr. Diane L. Golzynski, Deputy Superintendent 
Division of Finance and Operations

SUBJECT: Section 97j Early Behavior Intervention Tools Application Now Open

Funding is now available through [Section 97j](#) to intermediate school districts and local education agencies, both traditional public school districts and public school academies, for the purchase and implementation of tools that provide a common way of identifying and collecting early behaviors that could require intervention to prevent abuse, self-harm, or violence in schools. This funding has been made available through [PA 103 of 2023](#).

The tools described in section 97j must be used to inform any behavioral threat assessment and threat assessment teams. As used in this section, "early behaviors that could require intervention to prevent abuse, self-harm, or violence in schools" include, but are not limited to, any of the following behaviors:

- Changes in attendance
- Changes in academic performance
- Changes in emotional response
- Withdrawal
- Beginning signs of self-harm
- Problematic peer interaction
- Discipline concerns that could result in any of the following outcomes:
 - Specific interventions, including mental health or behavioral supports
 - Academic support
 - Parent or legal guardian conferences
 - Discipline referrals
 - Other restorative practices

The application for section 97j funds is now open in NexSys and can be found under "My Opportunities" on your NexSys Dashboard. The application will remain open until 11:59 pm on January 21, 2024.

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Please direct questions regarding the content of this memorandum to Mary Teachout in the School Health and Safety Unit at the Michigan Department of Education at TeachoutM@michigan.gov or 517-241-7092.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Departments