



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 18, 2024

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: Future Proud Michigan Educator (PME) EXPLORE Grants Now Open

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) welcomes new applications for the Future Proud Michigan Educator (PME) EXPLORE grant. EXPLORE programs are intended to foster an interest in educational careers for students in grades 6-12. These grants align with Michigan's Top 10 Strategic Education Plan's Goal 7—to increase the number of certified teachers in areas of shortage. Applications are due by February 23, 2024. To apply, please visit the [EXPLORE Grant: Section 504 website](#).

One million dollars has been allocated for Fiscal Year 2024, made available under Section 504 of the MDE budget ([Public Act 119 of 2023](#), page 47) to fund EXPLORE grants for school staff and current students. Intermediate school districts (ISDs) and local education agencies (LEAs), both traditional public school districts and public school academies (PSAs), may submit applications for one or both of the following purposes:

- Up to \$10,000 per school for creating or expanding future educator EXPLORE programs for students in grades 6-12.
- Up to \$10,000 per staff member enrolled in a teacher preparation program that the applicant employs for providing tuition grants for recent EXPLORE graduates enrolled in a pathway to traditional teacher certification.

Please contact MDE-PME@Michigan.gov with questions.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Departments

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