



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** May 16, 2024

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

**FROM:** Dr. Michele A. Harmala, Deputy Superintendent  
Division of Educator Excellence, Career Technical  
Education, Special Education, and Administrative Law 

**SUBJECT:** Student Loan Repayment Program Update

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) announces the successful conclusion of its first cohort application for the Student Loan Repayment Program. The application process closed on Thursday, April 11, 2024. Approximately 500 districts applied on behalf of over 7,000 eligible participants, following guidance provided on MDE's [Student Loan Repayment Program website](#).

The Student Loan Repayment Program provides financial assistance with loan payments under the federal [Public Service Loan Forgiveness](#) (PSLF) program. In accordance with Michigan Compiled Law (MCL) [Section 388.1627k](#), eligible program participants shall receive up to \$200 per month, or \$400 per month, if their employer is assigned to band 6 in the opportunity index, as described in [MCL Section 388.1631a](#). "Band 6 in the opportunity index" means at least 85% of pupils in the district or intermediate district are economically disadvantaged.

MDE anticipates the payments to be available to grant awardees in the July 2024 State Aid payments, pending approval of final award amounts. During the administrative review process, MDE identified many applications with incomplete or incorrect participant data/information. To ease the administrative burden on districts and maximize the financial support to educators, MDE will ask districts to modify their existing applications instead of submitting new applications. During the week of May 20, 2024, district grant contacts will be notified via email of the modifications that need to be made before the award approval. MDE asks districts for their cooperation in making timely modifications.

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

PAMELA PUGH – PRESIDENT • ELLEN COGEN LIPTON / TIFFANY D. TILLEY – CO-VICE PRESIDENTS  
JUDITH PRITCHETT – SECRETARY • MARSHALL BULLOCK II – TREASURER  
MITCHELL ROBINSON – NASBE DELEGATE • TOM MCMILLIN • NIKKI SNYDER

Districts with staffing changes for their point of contact should email [MDE-EdWorkforceGrants@Michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-EdWorkforceGrants@Michigan.gov). This process will ensure that communications for all districts are received and that grant-related records are up-to-date.

Many districts have requested information about a second cohort of Student Loan Repayment Program applications. Given current projections and awards, MDE expects a second cohort application period this fall. Since participation in the Student Loan Repayment Program is dependent on acceptance into PSLF, the timeline for the second cohort is tied to [the processing of PSLF applications](#) that began on May 1, 2024.

In an ongoing commitment to Goal 7 of [Michigan's Top 10 Strategic Plan](#), MDE wants to ensure that as many educators as possible can take advantage of this grant when the application opens in the fall. Therefore, districts are strongly encouraged to support educators in continuing the process of approval for the PSLF and, when applicable, income-driven loans or payment programs.

The loan repayment program, \$225 million in the FY24 budget, is part of \$448 million in funding in FY24 and a total of more than \$1 billion in FY23 and FY24 that the Michigan Legislature has appropriated to address the teacher shortage. Efforts to address the teacher shortage, recommended by MDE and funded by the legislature with budgets signed into law by the governor, include, but are not limited to, scholarships, student teacher stipends, Grow Your Own programs for students and staff to become teachers, a teacher loan repayment program, a rural credentialing hub, and mentoring. Additional efforts include, but are not limited to, Talent Together, Teach for America, and Troops to Teachers.

For additional information, please contact MDE's Office of Educator Excellence at [MDE-EdWorkforceGrants@Michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-EdWorkforceGrants@Michigan.gov) or 517-241-5000.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance  
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Departments