STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

SUE C. CARNELL, Ph.D.
INTERIM STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 23, 2025

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

FROM: Sue C. Carnell, Ph.D., Interim State Superintendent

SUBJECT: Accountability and Supports

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is required to run its federal school accountability system, the Michigan School Index, annually in fulfillment of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015. Next month, in compliance with ESSA, MDE will again produce its Michigan School Index System results, using data from the 2024-25 school year. The annual publication of the Michigan School Index System calculates index values from 0-100 for the school overall, and any components or subgroups within the school. Index values are based on the degree to which schools met targets in the various components. The school index also identifies low-performing schools for support.

Michigan's approved consolidated state ESSA plan requires that MDE identify new cohorts of schools for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) and Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) this year using the School Index results. This is not an identification year for Additional Targeted Support (ATS), as ATS identification is on a 6-year cycle.

School identification definitions and criteria have not changed from Michigan's approved ESSA plan and include the following:

Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI)

- Lowest performing 5% of schools OR high schools with 4-year graduation rates of 67% or below:
  - Lowest performing schools determined by the Michigan School Index System Overall Index Value.
  - Four-year graduation rates of 67% or below as determined by the four-year cohort rate within the graduation component of the Michigan School Index System.
- Identified every three years.

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

Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI)

- Schools having at least one student subgroup performing in the bottom 25% of each of the school's components on the School Index System.
- Identified annually.

Schools are eligible to exit CSI status if they meet all the following exit criteria:

- Show improvement in math and ELA proficiency over the most recent two years.
- Attain an Overall Index Score on the Michigan School Index report value that would not re-identify the school.

Schools that do not meet the CSI exit criteria will be reidentified for CSI.

While a new cohort of schools will not be identified for ATS in 2025, beginning with the 2024-25 identification cycle, MDE will offer ATS Early Exits. Schools identified for ATS in 2022 will have the opportunity to exit ATS status in fall 2025 (end of year 3 of the 6-year cohort cycle), provided eligibility criteria are met.

Michigan School Index resources, including documents covering Michigan School Index calculations, school identifications, and historical results, can be found on MDE's Michigan School Index webpage. Much of the existing Michigan School Index system remains unchanged, including its targets and underlying calculations.

Newly identified schools and those that do not exit existing statuses are eligible for additional support from MDE, including but not limited to Partnership Agreements. The Office of Partnership Districts will provide three levels of support to districts with Partnership Agreements: Intensive, Essential, and Fundamental. The Office of Educational Supports will provide a basic level of support to districts with schools identified for CSI and ATS and are not in a Partnership Agreement. Districts with schools identified only for TSI will be supported through universal support from MDE and in conjunction with their intermediate school districts.

Please send questions regarding the Michigan School Index and school identification to mde-accountability@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Departments