Nonpublic and Home School Information

2023-2024

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ATTENDANCE

The Michigan law governing compulsory attendance requires a parent, legal guardian, or other person having control or charge of a child ages 6 to 16 to send the child to school during the entire school year [MCL 380.1561]. In 2010, the law was amended to increase the compulsory school attendance age from 16 to 18 for a child who turned 11 after December 1, 2009, or who entered grade 6 after 2009. However, the compulsory school attendance age would remain at 16 for children whose parents provided school officials with a written notice that their children had their permission to stop attending school. A child is not required to attend a public school in the following cases:

> *(3) (a) The child is attending regularly and is being taught in a state-approved nonpublic school, which teaches subjects comparable to those taught in the public schools to children of corresponding age and grade, as determined by the course of study for the public schools of the district within which the nonpublic school is located.*
>
> *(3) (f) The child is being educated at the child's home by his or her parent or legal guardian in an organized educational program in the subject areas of reading, spelling, mathematics, science, history, civics, literature, writing, and English grammar.*
>
> *(4) For a child being educated at the child's home by his or her parent or legal guardian, exemption from the requirement to attend public school may exist under either subsection (3)(a) or (3)(f), or both.*

NONPUBLIC SCHOOL DEFINITION

A nonpublic school is defined under Section 2 of the *Private*, *Denominational and Parochial Schools Act,* PA 302 of 1921 [MCL 388.552].

A home school operating under Section 1561(3)(a) of the Revised School Code (MCL 380.1561) as described above is considered a nonpublic school if in compliance with the *Private, Denominational and Parochial Schools Act,* PA 302 of 1921. If a home school family chooses to operate under exemption (a), it reports to the Michigan Department of Education (MDE).

REPORTING

Nonpublic School Membership Report

The Nonpublic School Membership Report is an annual report used by MDE. Information requested on the form includes the number of students in each grade, teacher qualifications, and the course of study offered. Use of the form is authorized by section 5 of the *Nonpublic School Act*, and was approved by the Michigan Supreme Court in Sheridan Road Baptist Church v Department of Education, 426 Mich 462, 472, n 5; 396 NW2d 373 (1986) and Clonlara, Inc v State Board of Education, 442 Mich 230, 242, 501 NW2d 88 (1993).

The Nonpublic School Membership Report is available within the NexSys system on October 15, at the start of the school year, with a October 31 due date annually. Nonpublic schools that are already registered must complete this form online through the NexSys electronic system.

Prior to October 2017, MDE would share the listing of registered and approved nonpublic schools in November and March of each school year. Starting in October 2017, MDE maintains an up-to-date list of nonpublic schools that have completed the reporting process on Nonpublic & Home Schools (michigan.gov). This document is updated again as a final report after June 30 of each school year and is searchable by School, City, ISD/RESA, or School ID. This list is used by intermediate and local public school districts to determine nonpublic school eligibility in federal programs.

If a home school operates under exemption (f), it does not report to MDE. Additional information on exemption (f) can be found home school website - www.michigan.gov/homeschool.

Nonpublic School Personnel Report

All nonpublic schools are required to submit specific information about all school employees in compliance with the School Safety Legislation, effective January 1, 2006. The personnel data are entered into a secure web-based program, the Nonpublic School Personnel Report. The submission dates for each school year are from September 1, through the deadline of December 1, annually. You may access additional information at Nonpublic School Personnel Report website - http://www.michigan.gov/cepi/0,4546,7-113-72325---,00.html.

FUNDING

The Michigan Constitution under Article VIII, Section 2, prohibits public monies from being paid directly or indirectly to aid or maintain any private, denominational, or nonpublic school.

Federally funded programs may be available to nonpublic school students. Information may be obtained from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Non-Public Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Room 4W339, Washington D.C. 20202-5940; phone (202) 401-1365; fax (202) 401-1368. In addition, information may be accessed at Office of Non-Public Education website - http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oii/nonpublic/index.html. Additional information for some federal programs is available through the Office of Field Services at MDE.

STATE REQUIREMENTS

Child Care, Day Care or Before/After School Program Regulations

Programs involving the operation of child care, day care or before/after school programs are licensed by Michigan's Bureau of Children and Adult Licensing. For further information, please contact Child Day Care Licensing, Department of Health and Human Services, which can be reached toll free at 1-866-685-0006.

Course of Study

Nonpublic schools shall provide curricula comparable to those provided in local school districts. This curricula includes mathematics, reading, English, science, social studies in all grades, and the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of Michigan, and the history and present form of civil government of the United States, the State of Michigan, and the political subdivisions and municipalities of the State of Michigan in high school.

The state does not require specific content in the basic courses. Nonpublic or home schools, however, may wish to use the Michigan content standards that have been developed for public schools in Michigan. These standards are available on Michigan Academic Standards page - http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-28753_64839_65510---,00.html. Contact the Curriculum and Instruction Unit at 517-241-4285.

Graduation Requirements

The Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) graduation requirements are specific to public school districts and public-school academies (PSA). Nonpublic schools and students being taught in home school environments are not required to meet the MMC credit requirements Along with the 18 credit requirement, the MMC also offers flexibility and various options to personalize the requirements to meet individual needs, known as the "personal curriculum". These flexibility options are only appropriate for those schools required to implement the MMC.

The MMC legislation as well as other resources regarding the Michigan graduation requirements can be found at www.michigan.gov/highschool.

Immunizations

Since 1978, Michigan law requires that each student, upon entry into kindergarten or into a new school district involving grades 1-12, possess a certificate of immunization at the time of registration or no later than the first day of school. *Public Act 120, 121, and 122 of 2013* mandates that an immunization assessment be completed for each 7th grade student. Please note that beginning, January 1, 2014, the reporting requirement changed from 6th to 7th grade. The above laws (which amend the *Revised School Code,* the *Public Health Code,* and the *State School Aid Act*) were implemented to ensure that children are adequately immunized against vaccine preventable disease prior to achieving adolescence. Immunization prior to adolescence is critical, as some of these diseases become an even greater threat to health upon reaching adolescence.

Prior to a child entering or attending school, parents or guardians are required to produce documentation confirming that the child has received all required immunizations or, as an alternative, has received at least one dose of each of the required immunizations and is awaiting receipt of subsequent doses to be administered at appropriate intervals. A school must report to the local health department on the status of immunizations for all new entrants and all 7th grade children by November 1 and February 1 of each school year. In most cases, the school will report immunizations to the local health department using the MCIR/SIRS (Michigan Care Improvement Registry/School Immunization Recordkeeping System) program.

Beginning January 1, 2015, Michigan modified the administrative rules that changed how nonmedical waivers for immunization are obtained. The change was due to Michigan having one of the highest waiver rates in the country.

There are also three circumstances in which a required vaccine may be waived or delayed:

1. The child has received at least one dose of required vaccine(s) and the next doses(s) are not yet due. These children are considered to be in a "provisional" status. Schools are required to follow-up with these students to be sure subsequent doses of vaccine are received until they are complete for all required vaccines.

2. A child has a medical contraindication to a vaccine, in which case a *Medical Contraindication Form* **is required to be completed and signed by the child's medical physician.** The form shall state the medical contraindication(s), the vaccine(s) involved, and the time period during which the child is precluded from receiving the vaccine(s).
3. A parent or guardian holds a religious or philosophical ("other") belief which precludes receipt of a vaccination(s). These are the nonmedical exemptions and require certification at the local health department. All nonmedical waivers can be obtained from the local health department. Parent should contact the local health department to set up an appointment to receive the needed education on the risks of not receiving a vaccine and to obtain a signed waiver. Schools should no longer accept a waiver that has not been certified by staff at a local health department.

A child who fails to meet immunization requirements or does not have a signed waiver on file shall not be admitted to school.

Section 380.1177(a) of the *Michigan Public Health Code* requires the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) in cooperation with Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to develop information for Michigan schools to address notification to families with children enrolled in grades 6, 9, and 12 about the risk and prevention of the diseases meningococcal meningitis and Human Papillomavirus (HPV). Local school notification includes information regarding symptoms of the diseases, how they are spread, where to obtain additional information about risk factors, risks associated with vaccination against these diseases, and where to obtain the vaccines. On-line access to these notification materials is available at Michigan Immunization Program website - www.michigan.gov/immunize.

The current school requirements can be found at https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/School_Req_for_Parents_BW_557031_7.pdf

Questions regarding immunization requirements or requests for additional copies of informational materials should be directed to your local health department. For more information, contact the local health department, or the Division of Immunization at 517-335-8159.

Kindergarten Enrollment

The law (MCL 380.1147) states that beginning in the 2015-2016 school year, a child must be at least five years old as of September 1 in order to enroll in kindergarten. An exception to this requirement allows a child who will be at least 5 years of age by December 1 of the current school year to be enrolled if the child's parent or legal guardian notifies the school in writing that he or she intends to enroll the child in kindergarten for that school year. A public school that receives written notification may make a recommendation to the parent or legal guardian that the child is not ready to enroll in kindergarten due to the child's age or other factors. However, regardless of this recommendation, the parent or legal guardian retains the sole discretion to determine whether or not to enroll the child in kindergarten.

The kindergarten entry age requirement does not apply to nonpublic schools. Nonpublic schools may set their own enrollment policies and may choose different age cut off dates than public or charter schools. Please contact your local nonpublic school for a copy of their enrollment policies.

School Building, Construction and Fire Safety

Prior to the construction, reconstruction, remodeling, or alteration of a school building, construction plans, prepared by a design professional licensed per 1980 Public Act 299, along with a Plan Review Application are required to be submitted to the following agencies for review:

Construction Code Requirements
Dept. of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
Bureau of Construction Codes
Plan Review & Building Division
P.O. Box 30254
Lansing, MI 48909
517-241-9328

School Fire Safety Rules
Dept. of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
Bureau of Fire Services
Plan Review Division
P.O. Box 30700
Lansing, MI 48909
517-241-1044

Health and Safety Inspections
Contact your local county health department.

Background
On December 23, 2002, PA 628 was signed into law. This law amends the *School Building Act,* PA 306 of 1937 by requiring the inspection of all school building construction, as well as the review of any required construction documents under the *Stille-DeRossett-Hale Single State Construction Code Act* and the *Fire Prevention Code,* 1941 PA 207.

With the enactment of this revision, school construction projects involving the construction, addition, or alteration of any school building must be submitted to the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) for required plan reviews, permits, and on-site inspections.
The Bureau of Construction Codes and Bureau of Fire Services located within LARA has developed a single application and invoice system for the submission of required construction documents. A coordinated system for the inspection and granting of approvals, including the issuance of Certificates of Occupancy for completed construction, has also been developed. Ultimately, all school construction projects must meet both the construction standards under the *Stille-DeRossett-Hale Single State Construction Code Act,* which includes securing permits, inspections, and final approvals; as well as the 2016 School Fire Safety Rules under the *Fire Prevention Code,* which includes securing inspections and final approvals through the department's Bureau of Fire Services.

The Bureau of Construction Codes also provides for inspection by local code enforcement agencies where both the local school board and the local unit of government certify that the local enforcing agency has full-time plan review and inspection staff and are otherwise qualified to perform these duties in the review and inspection of school buildings.

Approval of Local Code Enforcement for Construction Code Requirements

If nonpublic schools elect to have school construction projects inspected by local building departments, both the nonpublic school and the unit of government(s) must complete, sign, and submit a Request for Delegation form to the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs. In order for that delegation to be approved by the state, both the nonpublic school and the governing body of the governmental subdivision must certify to LARA that full-time code officials, inspectors, and plan reviewers registered under PA 54 of 1986 will conduct plan reviews and inspections of buildings. This certification must be submitted and approved annually. Only those governmental jurisdictions documenting full time inspectors and plan reviewers to enforce the complete range of construction codes, including the building, electrical, mechanical, and plumbing codes, may qualify for delegation of school construction authority.

Absent approval of a completed Request for Delegation form from the nonpublic school and local building department, the State of Michigan, LARA Bureau of Construction Codes has responsibility for construction code enforcement of school buildings within that unit of government. The Request for Delegation form may be obtained on the Bureau of Construction Codes website - www.michigan.gov/bcc. The Bureau of Fire Services, with regard to School Fire Safety Rules, does not permit local code enforcement.

Licensing Laws and School Construction Projects
Licensed contractors and licensed tradespersons must perform work on school construction projects in accordance with state licensing laws including: *Electrical Administrative Act,* 1956 PA 217; *Forbes Mechanical Contractors Act,* 1984 PA 192; *State Plumbing Act,* 2002 PA 733; *Boiler Act,* 1965 PA 290; and the *Elevator Safety Act,* 1967 PA 227.

Plan Review Fees and Permit Fees
A plan review fee will be required with the submission of construction documents. Additionally, licensed contractors must obtain construction permits for school construction projects in accordance with the fee schedule established by the governmental authority having jurisdiction.

Local county health departments should be contacted for health and safety inspections.

Additional information may be obtained by visiting the Bureau of Construction Codes website - www.michigan.gov/bcc and the Bureau of Fire Services website - www.michigan.gov/bfs.

School Calendar

In 1993, the Michigan Supreme Court in Clonlara, Inc v State Board of Education (442 Mich 252) ruled that the *Nonpublic School Act* did not require a nonpublic school to be in session for 180 days required for public schools. MDE recommends, however, that a nonpublic school develop a school year calendar comparable to the public school district where the nonpublic school is located. Beginning with the 2016-17 school year, **public** schools were required to provide a minimum of 180 days and 1,098 hours of pupil instruction [MCL 388.1701(3)].

Teacher Certification Requirement

Information regarding Michigan teaching certificates and permits can be found at the Office of Professional Preparation Services website - www.michigan.gov/OPPS or by contacting them at 517-241-7023.

Teacher Criminal History and Unprofessional Applicant Checks

Michigan law requires that criminal history checks be conducted by the Michigan State Police (MSP) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for all regular and contract employees hired or assigned by public and nonpublic schools [MCL 380.1230 through MCL 380.1230h and MCL 380.1535a and MCL 380.1539b]. School personnel employed by the public or nonpublic school prior to January 1, 2006, were required to be fingerprinted and have a criminal history check not later than July 1, 2008.

Unprofessional Conduct

Michigan law requires a former or current employer to disclose to a prospective school employer any unprofessional conduct by the applicant [MCL 380.1230b]. A public or nonpublic school is prohibited from hiring an applicant who refuses to sign a document requesting this information.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Athletics and Extracurricular Activities

The supervision and control of interscholastic athletics are the responsibility of each local board of education. Most local boards have adopted policies as proposed by the Michigan High School Athletic Association. Please contact the appropriate local school district or the Michigan High School Athletic Association at 517-332-5046 or access information at Michigan High School Athletic Association - www.mhsaa.com.

Auxiliary Services

A nonpublic school may qualify for auxiliary services; federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965, Title I, Part A, and Title II, Part A; Regional Educational Media Center (REMC) services; and bus transportation services from public school districts. A nonpublic or home school must complete the Nonpublic School Membership Report on an annual basis to be eligible for auxiliary services.

Auxiliary services include health and nursing services and examinations, street crossing guard services, National Defense Education Act testing, speech and language services, social work services, school psychological services, teacher consultant services for students with disabilities, remedial reading, and other services determined by the Legislature. Section 1296 of the Revised School Code (MCL 380.1296) provides that if particular services are provided to public school students in a school district, those services must also be made available to students attending nonpublic schools located within that district. A public school that provides auxiliary services to its resident students shall provide the same auxiliary services on an equal basis to students at nonpublic schools. In 1997, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in Agostini v Felton (117 S Ct 1997) that intermediate and local school districts are permitted to provide auxiliary services on site for all nonpublic schools.

A public school is required to notify a nonpublic school within its district about the types of auxiliary services available to its students. Rule 340.293 of the Michigan Administrative Rules for Auxiliary Services for Nonpublic Schoolchildren states: *"A school district providing any of these auxiliary services shall notify in writing, no later than April 1 of each school year, each of the nonpublic schools within its district as to the nature and extent of such services as contained in its proposed budget. Within 30 days after receipt of such notice, nonpublic schools shall in writing notify the district as to the services that will be needed for nonpublic school children. A school district shall confirm in writing no later than August 1 of each school year to each of the nonpublic schools within its district the nature and extent of*

such services as contained in its final budget as adopted by the school district board of education. . .”

Child Nutrition Programs

National School Lunch Program (NSLP)

Nonpublic schools may be eligible for National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program reimbursement for breakfast and lunch. For information on how to initiate or expand a program, please contact the School Nutrition Programs office at 517-241-5374 or email MDE-SchoolNutrition@michigan.gov. More information is also available at School Nutrition Programs - www.michigan.gov/schoolnutrition.

Cyber School, Home Schooled, and Virtual Students Eligibility for School Nutrition Programs

With different methods of educating students in today’s world, it is important to know when these students may be eligible to take part in their local district’s school nutrition programs. There are basic guidelines to follow when determining whether or not a student is eligible and what eligibility status they may have. Here are some key points:

- The student must be ENROLLED in the district that he/she wants to access the school meal programs. They do not need to attend the district full time but they must be enrolled.
- The School Food Authority will need to make a determination on the student’s respective eligibility status – free, reduced or paid.
- At a Community Eligibility Provision school, the student is automatically eligible for free meals if enrolled at the school.
- A student must be in attendance for educational purposes at the school prior to the meal period and/or the student must be in attendance for educational purposes immediately following the meal period.
- The student’s reimbursable meal must be counted and claimed in the school where the meal(s) were served.

It is important that we feed all eligible students. The process above should help clarify how to handle these alternative methods of education in relation to feeding our students. Direct questions to MDE-SchoolNutrition@michigan.gov or 517-241-5374.

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

Nonpublic schools may be eligible for Child and Adult Care Food Program reimbursement for after school snacks and suppers. If your nonpublic school is non-profit, it must have tax-exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. For additional information regarding CACFP, contact the Department of Education, at 517-241-5353 or email MDE-CNAP-CACFP@michigan.gov.

Curriculum Materials

Nonpublic schools and home school families may purchase the textbooks and the instructional materials they deem necessary.

Driver Education and Pupil Transportation

A nonpublic or home school student is eligible to enroll in a driver education program provided at the public school district where the student is a resident [MCL 257.811]. If a charge or enrollment fee is imposed, it shall be the same for all students who reside within the territory of the public school system [MCL 256.610]. The oversight of driver education programs in Michigan is the responsibility of the Department of State [2004 PA 70 and 71]. Information may be found on the Michigan Department of State, Driver Education website - www.michigan.gov/teendriver.

For information on school pupil transportation for nonpublic school students, please contact Troy Hansbarger in the Office of Financial Management at 517-241-5383 or email hansbargert@michigan.gov. Additional information may be found on MDE's website - www.michigan.gov/schoolbus.

E-Rate

E-Rate, also known as the Universal Service Fund (USF) Schools and Libraries Division, is administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). The E-Rate program provides discounts on Internet access and internal connections (eligible services) for eligible schools and libraries. The discount is based on the number of students eligible for free and reduced lunch. If your district is not currently taking advantage of this federal discount program, you can learn more here E-rate - www.usac.org/sl/.

EduPaths

EduPaths, EduPaths - www.edupaths.org, is a free professional development portal for ALL Michigan educators. The courses are bite-sized, self-paced, and available 24/7, allowing for anyplace all-the-time learning. Courses vary from as little as 35 minutes to 4 hours. Courses can translated into State Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECHs). Educators can select from nine identified "pathways" including assessment, curriculum, data, early childhood, foundation, instruction, leadership, school improvement, and educational technology. These pathways provide multiple on and off ramps so that learners can personalize their professional learning.

Enrollment in Public School Courses

Home school and state-approved nonpublic school students in grades K-12 may enroll in nonessential elective courses in a district, public school academy, or intermediate district site (MCL 388.1766b). State-approved nonpublic school students may enroll in nonessential elective courses that are offered by a district at the nonpublic school site. Home-schooled students may enroll in nonessential elective courses that are offered by their resident district at the nonpublic school site.

Eligible courses include nonessential electives in the subject areas of physical education, art, foreign language, music, driver's education, and computer science. In addition to courses in these subject areas, courses that are part of a career and technical education program, and those that are advanced placement are considered nonessential electives.

Ineligible courses are those in subject areas that are considered essential curriculum pursuant to the Snyder v. Charlotte court case. These subject areas include mathematics, reading, English, social studies, science, writing, the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Michigan, and the history and present form of civil government of the United States, the State of Michigan, and the political subdivisions and municipalities of the State of Michigan. Remedial courses are also ineligible under this section, such as those provided as part of an English as a second language program (ESL).

Please refer to Section 5-E of the Pupil Accounting Manual (PAM), which can be found under "Publications" at https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-6605---,00.html

GenNET Online Learning

GenNET Online Learning is a service offered by Genesee Intermediate School District for students throughout the State of Michigan to provide a wide range of teacher-led courses and self-directed classroom tools delivered over the Internet. This program provides

enhanced learning opportunities for Michigan high school and middle school students. Barriers such as time, space, equality of opportunity, and lack of resources diminish when learning is moved online. Students, parents, educators -- explore the website to take advantage of this exciting and dynamic learning experience at https://www.gennet.us/. Nonpublic schools have an opportunity to have students take middle and high school courses online. There is a charge for all of the courses offered through GenNET. Questions that are not answered on the GISD website, email GenNETOnlineLearningSupport@geneseeisd.org.

Home Internet Access for the Economically Disadvantaged

For eligible families in Michigan that are economically disadvantaged, there are several programs available with low cost internet access. Details on programs available in Michigan are at: Low Cost Internet Access - www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-28753_65803-387715--,00.html.

Homebound/Hospitalized Services

If a student is enrolled part-time as a public school student and part-time as a nonpublic school student, then the public schools may have some responsibility to provide homebound/hospitalized instruction. The responsibility rests with the parent and the nonpublic school to maintain continuity with the student's nonpublic school instruction while that student is confined to the home or hospital. Parents should contact the local school district if a student is hospitalized or confined to the home during regular school hours for more than five school days [MCL 388.1709].

Michigan Virtual School (MVS) / Michigan LearnPort

The *Michigan Virtual School*® (*MVS*®) operates as one of the core divisions of *the Michigan Virtual University*® (*MVU*®), a private nonprofit corporation. *MVS* gives nonpublic schools and home school families the opportunity to have students take middle and high school courses online and access a robust online career development tool. Dozens of courses are available in a wide range of subjects and learning levels from general study to rigorous Advanced Placement. *MVS* also offers a wide range of summer school courses. As a result of Section 21f of the State School Aid Act, nonpublic school students can access non-core online courses at no cost if the nonpublic school has a shared time services agreement with a public school district. Students may be solely enrolled under 21f without the requirement to have a concurrent enrollment in a second course at the district. Find more information online at Michigan Virtual School - www.mivhs.org or email mvhs@mivu.org.

Michigan LearnPort® operates as one of the core divisions of *MVU. Michigan LearnPort* offers high-quality online professional development courses, tools and resources to Michigan's K-12 community. Courses are relevant to all core content areas, many carry recertification credits, and most are free of charge. Some courses are available for a nominal cost. *Michigan LearnPort* also offers over a thousand videos from the School Improvement Network of teachers demonstrating best practice strategies for instruction. Free collaboration spaces enable discussion within an entire school building, throughout a whole district, or across the state. Find more information online at Learnport - www.learnport.org or email learnport@mivu.org.

In 2012, the Governor and Michigan Legislature passed legislation requiring *MVU* to establish a center for online learning research and innovation, and through this center, directed *MVU* to work on a variety of projects. The center, now formally known as the *Michigan Virtual Learning Research Institute*™ (*MVLRI*™), is a natural extension of the work of *MVU*. The core strategies of *MVLRI* are research, policy, innovation and networks. *MVLRI*

also administers Michigan's Online Course Catalog (Michigan's Online Course Catalog - www.micourses.org), which is populated with course titles and syllabi submitted by local school districts, intermediate school districts and the *Michigan Virtual School*. Course syllabi include information such as course descriptions, course outlines, price and more. Find more information online at MVU - www.mvlri.org or email mvlri@mivu.org.

Postsecondary Dual Enrollment Participation

Students attending a state-approved nonpublic school are eligible to have certain postsecondary dual enrollment costs paid for by the State of Michigan. Nonpublic schools must report to MDE yearly for their students to be eligible.

Students must meet certain requirements found in the Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act, PA 160 of 1996 (MCL 388.511-388.524) and/or the Career and Technical Preparation Act, PA 258 of 2000 (MCL 388.1901-388.1913).

Nonpublic school students may arrange for postsecondary dual enrollment through a local district (if the student is also enrolled in shared time course), or directly through an eligible postsecondary institution with a letter of eligibility from their nonpublic school's principal.

In order for a home-schooled student to be eligible to have dual enrollment charges paid for by the State, the student must be enrolled in at least one class at a public or state-approved nonpublic school and have their dual enrollment processed through that school. Find more information at dual enrollment - www.michigan.gov/dualenrollment.

Regional Educational Media Centers (REMC)

A Regional Educational Media Center (REMC) provides a service that is available to nonpublic and home school students. The REMCs work cooperatively with one or more intermediate school districts for the improvement of instruction in Michigan's elementary and secondary schools. Many REMCs offer instructional materials including video, video disk, and computer software; cooperative purchasing of equipment, supplies and media; Internet access and support; production services; technological problem solving; training in the use of all types of equipment; training in the integration of media into instruction, media and technology consulting; and a distribution system. Additional services include inservice media; AV, video and computer equipment repair; desktop publishing, graphic design and layout; printing; video production, editing and duplication; professional library and online services; instructional television or building-based video collections; and satellite downlink services. For additional information regarding REMCs, please contact your intermediate school district or visit their webpage at REMC - www.remc.org.

In addition to professional learning opportunities, the REMC SAVE Bid Project allows Michigan schools to take advantage of volume purchasing prices. Eligible entities include non-public schools and educational non-profit organizations. See REMC Bids - www.remcbids.org for more information.

Special Education

A nonpublic student may be eligible to receive special education and related services. A parent or a public agency may refer the student suspected of having a disability for an evaluation through the Child Find process of the local public school district in which that nonpublic school is located. Children with disabilities also have rights under two civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability – Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (Title II). Section 504 prohibits disability discrimination by recipients of Federal financial assistance, such as SEAs and LEAs. Title II prohibits discrimination by public entities, including SEAs

and LEAs, regardless of receipt of Federal financial assistance. The Office of Civil Rights (OCR) in the U.S Department of Education enforces Section 504 in public elementary and secondary schools. Also, in this context, OCR shares in the enforcement of Title II with the U.S Department of Justice (DOJ). DOJ also provides technical assistance on the requirements of Title ii. More information about these laws is available at www.ed.gov/ocr and www.ada.gov.

The district then provides notice that it will or will not conduct the evaluation and requests consent to evaluate, if necessary. The district must conduct an evaluation, determine eligibility for special education and develop a services plan in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 USC chapter 33, § 1400 et seq.) and the Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education (R 340.1701-340.1862). For further information about special education, contact the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education at 1-888-320-8384.

State Education Assessments

Nonpublic School Students: All nonpublic schools can elect to administer the state assessments to their students during the assessment windows identified by the Michigan Department of Education.

Home School Students: Home schooled students also have the opportunity to take the state assessments. To do so, the home schooled student should contact the school district in which the student resides to make arrangements. The student's scores will be reported individually and not included in district results where they were tested.

The latest assessment window information is available on MDE Student Assessment at Accountability Services - www.mi.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709---,00.html. Information regarding the State Education Assessments can be found on the M-STEP website - www.michigan.gov/mstep or by contacting the Office of Educational Assessment & Accountability at 877-560-8378 or baa@michigan.gov.

Title I Participation

Funding for services to nonpublic school students is based on the number of children who live in Title I school attendance areas and meet the eligibility requirement for free or reduced-price school meals. Nonpublic school students who live in Title I (20 USC §6320) school attendance areas, and are failing or at risk of failing to meet the student performance standards in the core academic curriculum, are eligible for Title I services provided by the public school district in which they live.

Each spring, public school districts contact nonpublic school administrators and initiate consultation regarding participation in the Title I program. The local districts will use the list posted on the nonpublic school website - www.michigan.gov/nonpublicschool to determine which schools to contact. If the nonpublic school can provide low-income data and wishes its eligible students to participate, services are offered by the public school district. The 1997 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in Agostini v Felton (117 S Ct 1997) makes it possible to provide Title I services on the premises of religiously affiliated nonpublic schools. All materials and equipment acquired under the programs are purchased and owned by the public school district to be used by the public school in serving students of the nonpublic school.

Questions regarding Title I should be directed to the public school district(s) where students reside. Further information may be obtained from either the Office of Educational Supports at 517-241-6971 or the MDE Equitable Services Ombudsman website at https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-5373_6526_83402---,00.html or by phone at 517-335-0774.

Title II, Part A Participation

Nonpublic school staff may participate in professional development activities through the Title II, Part A (Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting) program. The program is accessed through the local school district in which the nonpublic school is located.

Local public school district officials are responsible for consulting with nonpublic school officials to plan the Title II, Part A services that best meet the identified needs of nonpublic school staff and students. Nonpublic Title II, Part A plans are included with those of the public school district in a single application.

Questions regarding Title II, Part A should be directed to the public school district(s) where students reside. Further information may be obtained from the MDE Office of Educational Supports at 517-241-6971 or the MDE Equitable Services Ombudsman website at https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-5373_6526_83402---,00.html or by phone at 517-335-0774..

STUDENT RECORDS

There is no law that requires nonpublic schools or home schools to maintain student records. Parents are encouraged to maintain student records of progress throughout the year. These records will assist public or nonpublic school personnel with placement should the student enroll in a public school.

Nonpublic School Transcripts

The Michigan Department of Education does not collect or maintain copies of nonpublic school transcripts, records or diplomas.

If you are searching for nonpublic school records, contact the church, diocese, or synod that was affiliated with the nonpublic school; a staff person that may have been employed at the school; or the intermediate school district the nonpublic school was located in.

Release of Student Records

The collection of tuition and the provision of student records are a matter of contract between the school and the parent. A nonpublic school may have the right under the contract to withhold student records. Involved parties may contact their legal counsel to determine responsibilities.

Transfer of Grades and Credits

The granting of credits and placement of students is solely determined by the receiving public or nonpublic school. Nonpublic schools and home school families are encouraged to determine what the public school policy is for grade placement and granting of credits should a student decide to return to the public system. If a student attends a nonpublic or home school and returns to a public school, the public school generally reevaluates the student for grade placement and the transfer of credit.

The issuance of report cards, transcripts, and diplomas are the responsibility of the nonpublic school and home school family (based on internal standards).

MISCELLANEOUS

Accreditation

Nonpublic schools may choose, but are not required, to participate in either of the following accreditation programs:

Michigan Association of Nonpublic Schools
510 S. Capitol Avenue, Lansing MI 48933

North Central Association
826 Municipal Way, Lansing MI 48917

Discipline Policies

In general, state law does not address disciplinary procedures in nonpublic schools. Michigan law prohibits the use of corporal punishment in a public school [MCL 380.1312]. In addition, Michigan law requires a public school to permanently expel a student who possesses a dangerous weapon, commits arson or criminal sexual conduct, commits physical assault against an employee or a volunteer at a public school, or issues a bomb threat or other similar threat [MCL 380.1311 and MCL 380.1311a].

Playground Equipment

The *Playground Equipment Safety Act*, 1997 PA 16, establishes requirements for the manufacture and assembly of public playground equipment. Free tools to help evaluate play spaces include: *Public Playground Safety Handbook* (U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Bethesda, Maryland 20814), *Parent Checklist: How Safe is Your Local Playground?* (CFA Playground Checklist, P.O. Box 12099, Washington, D.C. 20005-0999, include a self-addressed stamped envelope), and *National Action Plan for the Prevention of Playground Injuries* (National Program for Playground Safety, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50614-0618).

Tuberculosis Testing

Teachers are not required by the state to have regular tests for tuberculosis. However, school systems, public or nonpublic, may require regular T.B. testing of employees.

Work Permits

The *Youth Employment Standards* Act at MCL 409.104 states:

"...a minor shall not be employed in an occupation regulated by this act until the person proposing to employ the minor procures from the minor and keeps on file at the place of employment a copy of the work permit or a temporary permit. The work permit shall be issued by the issuing officer of the school district, intermediate school district, public school academy, or nonpublic school at which the minor is enrolled, and a copy of the work permit shall be placed in the minor's permanent school file for as long as the minor is employed. A temporary permit shall be valid for 10 days from the date of issue. A work permit may be issued by the school district in which the minor's place of employment is located, or by the public school academy or nonpublic school nearest that place of employment."

Minors seeking employment who are home schooled shall be issued a work permit by the issuing officer of the school district, intermediate school district, public school academy, or nonpublic school in which the minor's residence or prospective employer is located. The minor must present a signed, written statement from the parent or guardian, as the instructor of record, indicating how many hours per week the student is being home

schooled. The issuing officer will review the parent/guardian statement and issue the work permit with those hours reflected. The issuing officer will attach the parent/guardian statement to the work permit and keep a copy of the statement with their copy of the work permit filed at the school.

For additional information, contact Tara Bride, Office of Career and Technical Education, Department of Education, at 517-335-6041 or email bridet@michigan.gov.

RESOURCES

Michigan Department of Education (MDE)
Nonpublic and Home School Office
P.O. Box 30008
Lansing, Michigan 48909
Nonpublic School Website - www.michigan.gov/nonpublicschool
Phone: 517-241-5385
Email: nonpublicschools@michigan.gov

Department of Education Resource Phone Numbers

MDE Resources	*Phone Number*
Academically Talented	517-241-0439
Child Nutrition Programs	517-241-5374
Curriculum & Instruction	517-241-4285
Dual Enrollment	517-335-3005
Equitable Services Ombudsman	517-335-0774
National School Lunch Program	517-241-5374
Pupil Transportation	517-241-5386
School Breakfast Program	517-241-5374
Special Education	888-320-8384
Student Assessments	877-560-8384
Title I; Title II, Part A	517-241-6971

Information about MDE programs is accessible at MDE - www.michigan.gov/mde.

Programs Available Through Other State & Federal Agencies

Agency	*Contact*
Bureau of Construction Codes Plan Review Division	Department of Licensing & Regulatory Affairs 517-241-9328
Bureau of Fire Services Plan Review Division	Department of Licensing & Regulatory Affairs 517-241-1044
Child Day Care Licensing	Department of Health & Human Services 866-685-0006
Driver Education	Michigan Department of State 517-241-6850
Michigan Student Financial Aid Programs Office of Scholarships & Grants	Department of Treasury 888-447-2687
Nonpublic School Personnel Report Center for Educational Performance & Info	Customer Service 517-335-0505, option 3
Office of Nonpublic Education	U.S. Department of Education 202-401-1365