



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

April 17, 2017

Dear Secretary DeVos:

I am pleased to submit Michigan's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan for your review and approval. Michigan appreciates the U.S. Education Department's flexibility in allowing states to submit plans that align with and meet state education goals, such as Michigan's plan to be a top 10 state for education within the next 10 years. Along with the plan, I submit our Overview, which describes key aspects of the plan as it fits within this broader vision to move forward our state goals.

Since I became State Superintendent in July 2015, one of my top priorities has been to ensure we invite public input when determining education policy. It is the best thing to do, and the right thing to do.

Michigan's ESSA plan was developed by Michiganders for Michiganders and is a culmination of many months of planning, countless meetings, statewide public forums, focus groups, webinars, surveys, and thousands of hours of internal and external stakeholder time and feedback.

It reflects input from the State Board of Education, the Governor, members of the legislature, local schools, districts, and intermediate school districts, civil rights groups, Michigan's 12 federally recognized tribes, numerous education organizations, educators, parents, students, business leaders, community members, foundations, and many individual citizens. I look forward to this continuing partnership as we work to find-tune the implementation of Michigan's ESSA plan.

I would like to recognize the tremendous effort and organizational leadership of Michigan Department of Education staff, external stakeholders who participated directly in the development of the plan, and the thousands more who provided thoughtful feedback to shape this plan and the future of education in our state. Michigan's ESSA plan, is without a doubt, the most collaborative process we've ever engaged.

Our ESSA plan at its core, centers on Michigan's children – their opportunity to learn, to access excellent educators and meaningful supports, and to successfully transition to college, career, and life. It is driven by our plan to be a top 10 state for education within the next 10 years.

We look forward to your approval of this plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian J. Whiston".

Brian J. Whiston
State Superintendent

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