



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** October 23, 2020

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

**FROM:** Michael F. Rice, Ph.D., State Superintendent 

**SUBJECT:** Help In Finding Missing Students - MEMO #COVID-19-129

Across the state and across the country, many educators have been concerned about children who aren't showing up in any student enrollment counts in any schools so far this school year. This would be an alarming phenomenon in any year, but is particularly alarming in a pandemic when many children are not attending school in person.

The department recently sent a [memo](#) to local and intermediate school superintendents and public school academy directors about this issue. We have begun discussion with education leaders in the state to address this dilemma. Other work is under consideration, but time is of the essence for our children.

Please take every possible measure to connect with every family whose children you served last year, if you haven't done so already. Please don't assume that a child or children aren't in your district this year because they're being educated in another district or public school academy, in a private or parochial school, or at home. This may, or may not, be so.

The national organization *Attendance Works* has developed a useful resource to help districts connect with families of children who have not yet enrolled in your districts. You can find this resource at: [Updated for Covid-19: Strategies for Connecting with Students and Families](#). We encourage you and your staffs to review and consider these strategies to the benefit of children and families in your communities.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance  
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

CASANDRA E. ULBRICH – PRESIDENT • PAMELA PUGH – VICE PRESIDENT  
MICHELLE FECTEAU – SECRETARY • TOM MCMILLIN – TREASURER  
TIFFANY D. TILLEY – NASBE DELEGATE • JUDITH PRITCHETT  
LUPE RAMOS-MONTIGNY • NIKKI SNYDER