



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 21, 2021

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

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

SUBJECT: U.S. Department of Education – COVID-19 Handbook, Volume 2:
Roadmap to Reopening Safely and Meeting All Students' Needs -
MEMO #COVID-19-180

This memorandum is to share [Volume 2 of the U.S. Department of Education's COVID-19 Handbook series](#) designed to provide additional strategies for safely reopening schools and promote educational equity by addressing opportunity gaps that have been exacerbated by the pandemic.

As you may recall, in March you were [provided](#) a link to [Volume 1](#) of the handbook, which focused on health and safety measures that schools can use to successfully implement guidance of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Volume 2 of the handbook focuses on research-based strategies to address the social, emotional, mental health, and academic impacts of the pandemic on students, educators, and staff, such as how to address any potential anxiety or depression some may face as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and nearly a year of remote learning.

The strategies described in this volume can be supported by federal funding under the American Rescue Plan. Its sections, which include strategies and considerations for meeting the needs of underserved students, include:

- **Creating Safe and Healthy Learning Environments**—school meals, social emotional and mental health, and providing a safe and inclusive environment.
- **Addressing Foregone Instructional Time**—accelerating learning, supporting equitable access and effective use of technology, and using data to target resources.
- **Supporting Educator and Staff Stability and Well-Being**—stabilizing a diverse and qualified educator workforce and supporting educator and staff well-being.

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These resources are among a number of informational documents that the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has shared and will share with districts to support recovery efforts. In our local control state, we know that there is no single plan or direction plan appropriate for all of Michigan's 829 local school districts. In the coming months, MDE will continue to provide resources and information that may be of interest to you and your team as you rethink how best to serve children and develop your plans for the new, better normal in your district.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors