

RURAL/MICRO-DISTRICT PLACEMENT

In an effort to address unique staffing difficulties due to size and location, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), in cooperation with education partners, has introduced the Rural/Micro-District Placement flexibility pilot. By offering an additional flexibility option to specific rural regions and very small schools that face unique staffing challenges, qualifying districts will be able to ensure students receive instruction from certified teachers with district support, regardless of staffing challenges.

Specifically, eligible Local Education Agencies (LEA) that have started school with vacant positions may now use the Rural/Micro-District Placement to assign Michigan teachers holding valid certificates to any K-12 placement, except for assignments requiring particular credentials or endorsements specified in legislation (e.g., special education, career and technical education).

ELIGIBLE DISTRICTS

Rural Remote AND less than 400 students.

OR

All Rural and All Town (Distant/Fringe/Remote) AND less than 50 students.

[Click here for definitions.](#)

- Districts that qualify as a “rural/micro-district” do not have limitations on placement and are not required to obtain permits, as long as teachers hold valid Michigan certificates or the appropriate specialized credentials.
- District regional **locale code classifications** are identified in the Educational Entity Master (EEM).
- Eligibility based on student counts are determined by the one of the previous three fall counts reported on **MI School Data**.
- Cyberschools and Strict Discipline Academies are not eligible.

FLEXIBILITY AND INNOVATION

Districts may also use permits, authorizations and approvals to support innovative recruitment, retention, and professional growth efforts. These tools assist districts with both short-term fixes and long-term solutions to staffing challenges, while providing valuable data to inform our system and keep students safe.

More information about MDE permits, authorizations, and approvals may be found by visiting the Office of Educator Excellence’s website at: <http://bit.ly/2JwDeht>.



QUESTIONS?
CONTACT THE OFFICE OF EDUCATOR EXCELLENCE
517-241-5000 or MDE-EducatorHelp@Michigan.gov

