

June 11, 2009

Special Alert Regarding District Allocations of Stimulus Funds, Education YES Replaced and Michigan Nontraditional Route to Teacher Certification

District Allocations of Stimulus Funds

The Michigan Department of Education has posted the anticipated allocations for districts based on Title I and Title II American Recovery and Reinvestment Act stimulus monies. The allocated amounts can be found at the following web site: www.michigan.gov/mde; click on ARRA information and scroll down to Grants and Allocations to find the link to the Title I allocations. On the next page click on Preliminary Program Allocations to access each district's funding. It is our understanding that the amounts posted are accurate and, if anything, these amounts may increase pending the state recapture of other money.

The ARRA provides guidance and expectations articulated in the law for the use of ARRA funds by the local districts, including the following:

Spend funds quickly to save and create jobs

Improve student achievement through school improvement and reform by

*making improvements in teacher effectiveness

*provide intensive support and effective intervention for the lowest performing schools.

Because these additional funds must be used for approved Title I and Title II activities, there are plenty of opportunities for districts to spend funds to help maintain current staffing levels and provide substantial quality professional development activities for all staff. Buildings struggling to meet the AYP goals are strongly encouraged to use these funds for that purpose, including adequate staff to support student achievement. These funds are meant to supplement, not supplant, district funding and cannot be used in place of general funds.

It is also important to note that the law requires districts to include teachers on professional development planning committee for the use of these funds at the district and building level.

Education YES Replaced

Education YES-A Yardstick for Excellent Schools has been Michigan's school accreditation system since 2002. Since then, the legislature and the State Board of Education has initiated regulatory and policy changes that mandate the need to update the current system. In addition, educators have expressed a desire for more and more user friendly information to support school improvement.

Based on input of a broad-based stakeholder group and public review, MDE staff has redesigned an improved system, Michigan's School Accreditation System (MI-SAS) that reflects current policy and provides comprehensive and understandable data and information on school quality. The redesigned system addresses the issue of school achievement, and the linkage between MI-SAS and AYP. Education YES is expected to expire in September 2009. The State Board approved the MI-SAS during the June 9, meeting as the replacement for ED-YES. The Michigan Department of Education plans to develop the report format for the accreditation system and implement MI-SAS in the 2009-10 school year. Information on the MI-SAS can be accessed at www.michigan.gov/mde. Scroll down to Assessment and Accountability in the blue list of links on the left and click. In the middle section of the next page, scroll down under the Accountability column and click on MI-SAS.

Michigan Nontraditional Route to Teacher Certification

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) through the Office of Professional Preparation Services (OPPS) has developed proposed requirements for the Michigan Nontraditional Route to Teacher Certification (MNRTC). The requirements were presented to the State Board of education at its May 12, 2009 meeting.

The MDE is seeking input on the MNRTC requirements via an electronic field review response. If you wish to view the proposed requirements and respond, please visit the following link:

http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-6530_5683_14795---,00.html

The website will remain open for responses until July 24, 2009. If you require technical assistance accessing these documents, please contact Dana Utterback at 517-335-4610 or email utterbackd@michigan.gov.

The MEA is represented by several members on the professional Standards Commission for Teachers (PSCT) who were active in the development of these requirements. All members are encouraged to review the requirements and respond to the MDE with comments.

For questions, contact Frank Ciloski at fcilsoki@mea.org or 800/292-1934 ext. 6213.