



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 26, 2018

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

FROM: Venessa A. Keesler, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent 
Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports

SUBJECT: Request for Feedback and Comments on Draft Waiver for Innovative Assessment in Michigan.

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is requesting a waiver from the United States Department of Education (USED) to allow up to 5% of Michigan school districts to develop and administer an innovative assessment system for eventual use as their state test. The intent is that these innovative assessments could be used in lieu of the M-STEP in certain grades and content areas. This is a Michigan Top 10 Education State in 10 Years goal seven (7) initiative.

The MDE feels this initiative is tied to a desire to innovate in our assessment system, as well as the growing desire to develop and nurture competency-based instruction in our schools.

The MDE laid out this intent in our approved ESSA plan submitted to USED and needs to seek an official waiver from the department to begin this initiative.

Per the guidelines, MDE is posting a draft of this waiver for public comment before official submission to USED for consideration. We welcome any comments or feedback through the directions noted below.

The draft waiver request may be viewed at:
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Innovative_Letter_Final_DeVos_042418_621358_7.pdf

Individuals wishing to comment on the waiver request should submit comments to MDE-OEAA@michigan.gov by May 11, 2018. Please include the phrase "Innovative Assessment Waiver Comments" in the email subject line.

Questions may be directed to Jan Ellis at ellisj@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

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