



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** July 8, 2021

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

**FROM:** Delsa D. Chapman, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent   
Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports

**SUBJECT:** Public Comment on the Proposed 2021-22 Rural/Micro-District  
Placement Flexibility

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is requesting public comment on the proposed rural/micro-district placement flexibility for staffing.

The rural/micro-district flexibility concept has been in development with stakeholders since 2018. It would offer an additional staffing flexibility option to specific rural regions and small local education agencies (LEAs), both traditional public school districts and public school academies, that face unique staffing difficulties due to size and location. Specifically, the proposal would allow certain districts 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).

All feedback on the proposal must be submitted by 5:00 p.m., July 22, 2021, via the [online survey](#). View the [rural/micro-district placement flexibility](#) document prior to submitting feedback.

The tentative implementation timeline for this flexibility is:

- July 22, 2021 – close public comment
- July 26 - August 6, 2021 – review feedback and modify, as necessary
- August 9, 2021 – notify eligible districts

For additional information, please contact [MDE-EducatorHelp@Michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-EducatorHelp@Michigan.gov).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance  
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

CASANDRA E. ULBRICH – PRESIDENT • PAMELA PUGH – VICE PRESIDENT  
TIFFANY D. TILLEY – SECRETARY • TOM MCMILLIN – TREASURER  
JUDITH PRITCHETT – NASBE DELEGATE • ELLEN COGEN LIPTON  
NIKKI SNYDER • JASON STRAYHORN

608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909  
[www.michigan.gov/mde](http://www.michigan.gov/mde) • 833-633-5788