



# Office of Educator Excellence DARTEP Update February 7, 2025

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## **SECTION I: Legislative Updates**

Below is a selection of bills currently (as of January 28, 2024) before the Michigan Senate and the House of Representative. This selection is limited to educator workforce related bills with activity since the [December 6, 2024 DARTEP update](#). Details about the status of all bills currently before the legislature, including full text and analysis (where available) may be found at <http://legislature.mi.gov>. At that page, you can also sign up for bill and committee meeting notifications.

### **2023-2024 Legislative Session**

The 2023-2024 legislative session has ended and any bills introduced in 2023-2024 that were not passed will need to be re-introduced in 2025.

#### **Passed Bills**

- HB 5549 – School Safety Department. *Now Public Act 272*
- HB 5649 – Computer Science elective. *Now Public Act 206*
- SB 567 & 568 – Dyslexia training for pre-service and in-service teachers. *Now Public Act 146 & 147.*
- SB 744 – Teacher Probationary Period. *Now Public Act 134.*

### **2025-2026 Legislative Session**

State Budget Director Jen Flood is scheduled to present the governor’s budget proposal to lawmakers Wednesday, February 5, 2025. The Executive Recommendation is the first look at the Fiscal Year 2026 budget. Following, the House and Senate will begin to draft their versions in anticipation of negotiations later in the spring.

## **SECTION II: Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Updates**

Below is a selection of memoranda, news items, and other announcements released by the Michigan Department of Education since the [December 6, 2024 DARTEP update](#) that OEE believes have special relevance for EPIs and concern issues about which multiple EPI representatives have enquired. Several of these have been previously shared via the DARTEP listserv and are aggregated here for your convenience. To sign up for MDE emails, please use the following link:

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIMDE/subscriber/new>

### **MDE Communications:**

- [Michigan School for the Deaf Featured in Newest #proudMIeducator Video Series](#)
- [Office of Management and Budget January 27, memo M-25-13](#)
- [Michigan Department of Education Additional Guidance on the Responsibility to Educate All School-Age Children Regardless of Citizenship and Immigration Status](#)
- [Michigan Department of Education Guidance on the Responsibility to Educate Children Regardless of Citizenship and Immigration Status](#)
- [Results of National Tests Show Importance of Recently Passed Michigan Literacy Laws and Other Reform Efforts](#)
- [2025-2026 USED Teacher Shortage Areas for Loan Forgiveness](#)
- [Public Comment on the Proposed Standards for the Preparation of Special Education Teachers](#)
- [Special Education Teacher Flexibility Waivers](#)
- [2024-25 Superintendents Advisory Councils](#)
- [Announcing Grants Repository](#)
- [Section 27m National Board Recognized Achievement Grant – Round 2](#)
- [Annual Certification Reminder and Requirements](#)
- [Live Webinars on Public Act 146, Public Act 147, Section 35m and Section 35n Grants, and Virtual Dyslexia Summit](#)
- [Michigan Teachers Chosen as Recipients of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching](#)
- [Surprise! Frankenmuth Teacher Receives \\$25,000 Milken Educator Award](#)
- [Dr. Pamela Pugh Re-elected President of State Board of Education](#)
- [Job Fairs Held Virtually Will Help Michigan Address Educator Shortage](#)
- [Flint Community Schools Students Share with the State Superintendent](#)
- [87 Teachers Statewide to Gain National Board Certification Through MDE Grants](#)
- [Algonac Teacher Who Uses Outdoor Learning Featured in Latest #proudMIeducator Video](#)

Stay in the know! Review [MDE Press Releases](#) and [MDE Memos](#).

## **SECTION III: Office of Educator Excellence Updates**

### **New Higher Education Consultant – Christine Lancaster**

Christine Lancaster joined OEE January 2025. Christine brings with her over 25 years of experience in higher education educator preparation and program development. Known

for her collaborative approach, Christine fosters supportive environments for colleagues and educational partners, contributing to sustainable program growth and quality.

Christine holds a Bachelor of Music from Western Michigan University and a master's and doctorate in educational leadership from Eastern Michigan University. Her previous work and research focused on sense of belonging and enhancing recruitment and retention efforts to ensure teacher candidates reflect the rich diversity of Michigan's P-12 schools. This commitment has guided her throughout her career, allowing her to cultivate impactful programs tailored to both community and candidate needs.

Christine is excited to collaborate with stakeholders across the state to develop innovative, high-quality programs that equip future educators to thrive in diverse learning environments.

## **Disciplinary Literacy & Dyslexia Requirements Application: February 20, 2025, Working Session Webinar**

Thanks to our literacy colleagues from the University of Michigan who shared their process and current progress in aligning their teacher preparation literacy program of study to the [Disciplinary Literacy Standards for the Preparation of Middle Grades and High School Teachers](#) (DLPS) at our January meeting. You can access the session slides with links to resources shared during the collaboration session [here](#).

Colleagues from Northern Michigan University are joining us for the February 20, 2025, collaborative working session! Literacy colleagues across programs are encouraged to register [here](#); bring questions, wonderings, as well as plan to share what is working for your institution to bring various programs together under a PK-12 continuum of literacy preparation. For questions, please reach out to Dr. Ahlam Bazzi ([BazziA3@Michigan.gov](mailto:BazziA3@Michigan.gov)).

## **EPI Performance Management System**

The 2025 EPI Performance Score is undergoing its final checks as it awaits the final version of the 2023-24 educator effectiveness ratings. All programs are expected to be in good standing.

Please direct any questions to Jason Kalmbach ([KalmbachJ@Michigan.gov](mailto:KalmbachJ@Michigan.gov)).

## **MTTC: New Tests – Science (7-12)**

MDE is proud to launch Science (7-12). Key dates to know:

- February 17, 2025: First appointments available
- March 2025: First scores reported

As a reminder, a Professional Knowledge and Skills test is required for grade-banded endorsements, including 7-12 fields.

## #proudMIeducator

### **Milken Educator Awards**

On Friday, January 24, a surprise ceremony was held to award Luke Kanine with the Milken Educator Award. Luke is a Spanish and Physical Education teacher at E.F. Rittmueller Middle School, in Frankenmuth School District. Photos and video of the ceremony can be viewed at [Milken Educator Luke Kanine \(MI '24\)](#).



*Pictured left to right: Dr. Pamela Pugh, President, Michigan State Board of Education; Christine Fry, Principal, E.F. Rittmueller Middle School; Dr. Michael F. Rice, Michigan Superintendent of Public Instruction; Luke Kanine, 2024 Milken Educator; Grant Hegenauer, Superintendent, Frankenmuth School District; Greg Gallagher, Senior Program Director, Milken Family Foundation*

### **Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST)**

Five outstanding Michigan educators have been awarded the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching!

- Shannon Houtrouw, Kalamazoo Area Mathematics and Science Center, Kalamazoo Public Schools, Mathematics
- Diana Matthews, Detroit Country Day School, Science
- Emily Pohlonski, Novi High School, Novi Community School District, Science
- Leigh Roehm, Saline Middle School, Saline Area Schools, Science
- Karen Sleno, Flushing High School, Flushing Community Schools, Mathematics

As a PAEMST awardee, the educator will receive a trip to Washington, D.C., for a recognition event, a presidential certificate, and a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation!

Established by Congress in 1983, The PAEMST award is the highest honor bestowed by the United States government specifically for K-12 science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and/or computer science teaching. Learn more at the [PAEMST website](#). The 2024-25 nomination cycle is open! [Nominate a teacher](#) today! Nominated teachers must have their applications submitted by February 6, 2025.

### **Proud Michigan Educator Videos**

Two new videos have emerged for the #ProudMIeducator campaign. The videos feature the Michigan School for the Deaf. The first video, [#proudMIeducator: Michigan School for the Deaf—Community](#), includes a closer look at the community surrounding MSD.

#proudMIeducators Katie Sweers and Kelly Young share how important the support of the Deaf and hard of hearing community is to the school and its students.

In the second video, [#proudMIeducator: Michigan School for the Deaf—Short History](#), #proudMIeducator Principal Rex Vernon shares a brief history of the school, including the importance of the Superintendent’s cottage, where the rich history of the Michigan School for the Deaf is thriving for the Deaf and hard of hearing community.

A complete playlist of our #proudMIeducator videos can be found on [YouTube](#). We are interested in your ideas for #pme videos! If you have an idea or suggestion, please share with Jennifer Robel ([RobelJ@Michigan.gov](mailto:RobelJ@Michigan.gov)).

## **Standards Development: Visual Arts Standards**

OEE plans to present revised PK-12 Visual Arts Education teacher preparation standards to the State Board of Education on April 8, 2025.

## **Standards Development: Special Education Teacher**

OEE and the Office of Special Education (OSE) presented proposed standards for a new Special Education Teacher endorsement to the State Board of Education on January 14, 2025. Public comment on these standards is now available until February 27, 2025. Please share this link – [Special Education Standards Public Comment](#) – with any special education faculty, support staff, cooperating teachers, administrators, parents, and individuals who have engaged with special education services in Michigan.

## **Surveys & Candidate Tracking**

### Candidate Tracking

Thank you to all the EPPs for using the MOECS tracking system to start the rostering process!

EPPs are asked to continue using the system by enrolling all remaining candidates in their programs. This includes candidates scheduled to start their clinical internship in Spring/Summer 2025 as well as all other education candidates not yet in the system.

All candidates should be in the system with an updated status by June 30, 2025.

**Note:** Candidates enrolled in advanced programs (e.g., administrator, school psychologist, etc.) do not need be enrolled at this time, but we encourage EPPs to include them as they develop procedures for enrolling all candidates, regardless of program, into the system.

### Survey Timelines

#### SS2025 Candidate Suite

- Candidates eligible for the SS2025 Candidate Suite Surveys should be in MOECS by February 15.
- MDE will distribute the rosters on February 19 to collect supervisor and cooperating teacher contact information.

- Final rosters are due to MDE by March 5.
- Surveys are distributed March 19 and will remain in the field until June 15.

#### FW2024 Candidate Suite Surveys

- Surveys close on February 16.
- Reminders (with survey links) will be sent from Qualtrics on February 5 and February 12.
- Please check your Qualtrics dashboard and remind missing respondents to complete the survey.

If you any have questions, please contact Jason Kalmbach ([KalmbachJ@Michigan.gov](mailto:KalmbachJ@Michigan.gov)) and Dana Utterback ([UtterbackD@Michigan.gov](mailto:UtterbackD@Michigan.gov)).

## ***SECTION IV: Resources to Support Preparation Programs***

### **Accreditation Support**

OEE offers monthly accreditation support meetings open to anyone interested in learning more about both CAPE and AAQEP accreditation processes. Please see [2025 Schedule of Meetings](#) for dates, times, and Zoom link. Also see [MDE Accreditation Support](#) for resources and prior presentations.

### **CAEP Science of Reading Resources**

CAEP has published two resources on the Science of Reading that EPPs can use to support implementation of PA 17 requirements. [The Science of Reading: The Basics](#) is a primer on the Science of Reading, providing details on many critical concepts addressed by the Lower Elementary and Upper Elementary Literacy preparation standards and lots of links to professional learning resources for teachers, teacher candidates, and teacher educators. [CAEP Resource: Science of Reading 2024](#) is a brief video introduction to The Basics document.

### **Reading Instruction Across Content Disciplines Forum**

On December 12, EducationWeek hosted a free virtual forum on supporting adolescent readers across discipline areas. Register to watch an on-demand recording of the webinar [here](#). This forum is a promising resource for supporting programs with implementation of the 5-9/7-12 Disciplinary Literacy standards as well as for supporting candidates with becoming proficient in them.

## ***SECTION V: Office of Educator Excellence Reminders***

### **From [December 2024](#) MDE-OEE DARTEP Updates**

- MTTC: Expiring Scores for Old Programs & Candidate Outreach (pp. 4, 10-11)
- MTTC: Higher Education Representatives Needed for Reviews (p. 12)
- MTTC: Higher Education Representatives Receive Practice Test Access (p. 13)
- MTTC: New Tests – Administrator (ES & CO Endorsements) (p. 4)
- MTTC: Professional Knowledge and Skills (p. 13)

- MTTC: Test Center Experiences (p. 13)
- MTTC: Test Fee Reimbursement Grant Program (pp. 13-14)
- MTTC: Test Preparation (p. 5)
- Professional Practices Reminders (p. 14)
- Talent Pool (p. 6)

### From [October 2024](#) MDE-OEE DARTEP Updates

- Michigan Teacher of the Year (pp. 4-5)
- MI Future Educator Fellowship & Future Educator Student Teacher Stipend (pp. 5)
- MTTC: Expiring Scores for Old Programs & Candidate Outreach (pp. 7-8)

### Educator Workforce Data Report

The Office of Educator Excellence (OEE)'s [Educator Workforce Data Dashboard](#) is a great resource for metrics of commonly requested data about the educator pipeline. At present, data goes through 2022-23. Academic year 2023-24 data is in the process of being prepped for release by Spring 2025.

If you have questions or would like to provide feedback on your use of the dashboard, please contact Aishu Venkadachalam ([VenkadachalamA@Michigan.gov](mailto:VenkadachalamA@Michigan.gov)) and Kate Boswell Gallagher ([BoswellGallagherK@Michigan.gov](mailto:BoswellGallagherK@Michigan.gov)).

### "Educationally Speaking," the OEE Newsletter

Subscribe to the OEE's newsletter, "Educationally Speaking," to receive the most up-to-date information from our office. Visit [MDE's Email Updates](#) webpage, enter your email address, then scroll down to Educator Excellence and check the box next to "Educationally Speaking."

### Title II

Please review your Title II contacts and let Jason Kalmbach ([KalmbachJ@Michigan.gov](mailto:KalmbachJ@Michigan.gov)) know if any staff need to be removed or added to the list of authorized users for the Title II system. The ES Data Collection Worksheet, which is used to report EPP pass rates, is available on EdReports and is due February 7, 2025.

Please contact the ES Help Desk if you need to update user access to the worksheets.

- ES /Pearson Title II Support: 1-800-998-3787 during the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday – Friday, excluding holidays; or, by email at [es-titleii@pearson.com](mailto:es-titleii@pearson.com).

### Volunteer with OEE Initiatives

We need your input! We can't do this work without you! We Need Your Voice! If you are interested in sharing your perspective with the Office of Educator Excellence on a future project, we are always looking for individuals to participate in workgroups, review committees, and other projects involving Michigan's education workforce. To be considered, please complete [this form](#). Feel free to forward to others!

## **SECTION VI: Office of Educator Excellence Contacts**

How may we help you?	Contact
Accreditation	Gina Garner ( <a href="mailto:GarnerG2@Michigan.gov">GarnerG2@Michigan.gov</a> )
Certificate Corrections	Dana Utterback ( <a href="mailto:UtterbackD@Michigan.gov">UtterbackD@Michigan.gov</a> )
Certification Rules & Policy	Krista Ried ( <a href="mailto:RiedK@Michigan.gov">RiedK@Michigan.gov</a> )
Change EPI Contact/Staff Information	Educator Programs Inbox ( <a href="mailto:EducatorPrograms@Michigan.gov">EducatorPrograms@Michigan.gov</a> )
CPR/First Aid	Beatrice Harrison ( <a href="mailto:HarrisonB@Michigan.gov">HarrisonB@Michigan.gov</a> )
Criminal Convictions Questions	Professional Practices Inbox ( <a href="mailto:MDE-Professional-Practice@Michigan.gov">MDE-Professional-Practice@Michigan.gov</a> )
DARTEP Listserv	DARTEP Website ( <a href="https://darTEP.org/listserv/index.php">https://darTEP.org/listserv/index.php</a> )
Data Requests	Aishu Venkadachalam ( <a href="mailto:VenkadachalamA@Michigan.gov">VenkadachalamA@Michigan.gov</a> )
Educator Evaluations	Joe Priest ( <a href="mailto:PriestJ4@Michigan.gov">PriestJ4@Michigan.gov</a> )
EPI Performance Score	Jason Kalmbach ( <a href="mailto:KalmbachJ@Michigan.gov">KalmbachJ@Michigan.gov</a> )
Future Proud Michigan Educator: EXPLORE	Holly Carruthers ( <a href="mailto:CarruthersH@Michigan.gov">CarruthersH@Michigan.gov</a> )
Future Proud Michigan Education: GYO	Jenni Dickens ( <a href="mailto:DickensJ2@Michigan.gov">DickensJ2@Michigan.gov</a> )
Michigan Teacher Leadership Advisory Council (MTLAC; Michigan Teacher of the Year and Regional Teachers of the Year)	Jennifer Robel ( <a href="mailto:RobelJ@Michigan.gov">RobelJ@Michigan.gov</a> )
MOECS – EPI Users	Dana Utterback ( <a href="mailto:UtterbackD@Michigan.gov">UtterbackD@Michigan.gov</a> )
MOECS – Applicants	MOECS Helpdesk: 517-241-5000 or ( <a href="mailto:MDE-EducatorHelp@Michigan.gov">MDE-EducatorHelp@Michigan.gov</a> )
MTTC Information	Bridgett McDowell ( <a href="mailto:McDowellB@Michigan.gov">McDowellB@Michigan.gov</a> )
Obtain Program Applications & Forms	Educator Programs Inbox ( <a href="mailto:EducatorPrograms@Michigan.gov">EducatorPrograms@Michigan.gov</a> )
Preparation Program Technical Assistance: General Education Experimental Programs, Residencies	Sean Kottke ( <a href="mailto:KottkeS@Michigan.gov">KottkeS@Michigan.gov</a> )
Preparation Program Technical Assistance: Administrator, Alternative Routes (Administrator, Special Education), Arts, Early Childhood, School Counselor, School Psychologist, School Social Worker,	Gina Garner ( <a href="mailto:GarnerG2@Michigan.gov">GarnerG2@Michigan.gov</a> )



Special Education, Special Education Experimental, Teacher Leader	
Preparation Program Technical Assistance: ESL/Bilingual Education, World Language, Elementary Education, English Language Arts, Literacy, Reading Diagnostics, Reading Teacher/Specialist	Ahlam Bazzi ( <a href="mailto:BazziA3@Michigan.gov">BazziA3@Michigan.gov</a> )
Preparation Program Technical Assistance: Career & Technical Education, Elementary Education, Health/PE, Math, Science, Social Studies, Alternative Routes (General Education Teacher)	Christine Lancaster ( <a href="mailto:LancasterC6@Michigan.gov">LancasterC6@Michigan.gov</a> )
Professional Learning	Marty Snitgen ( <a href="mailto:SnitgenM1@Michigan.gov">SnitgenM1@Michigan.gov</a> )
#proudMIeducator	Jennifer Robel ( <a href="mailto:RobelJ@Michigan.gov">RobelJ@Michigan.gov</a> )
Public Directory (ProPrep) Corrections	Dana Utterback ( <a href="mailto:UtterbackD@Michigan.gov">UtterbackD@Michigan.gov</a> )
Recruitment & Retention Programs	Dante Watson ( <a href="mailto:WatsonD18@Michigan.gov">WatsonD18@Michigan.gov</a> )
Recognition Programs	Tara Totten ( <a href="mailto:TottenT@Michigan.gov">TottenT@Michigan.gov</a> )
Surveys	Dana Utterback ( <a href="mailto:UtterbackD@Michigan.gov">UtterbackD@Michigan.gov</a> ) Jason Kalmbach ( <a href="mailto:KalmbachJ@Michigan.gov">KalmbachJ@Michigan.gov</a> )
Title II Reporting	Jason Kalmbach ( <a href="mailto:KalmbachJ@Michigan.gov">KalmbachJ@Michigan.gov</a> ) Vendor: <a href="mailto:title2@trewon.com">title2@trewon.com</a>