

## Office of Educator Excellence

# DARTEP Update

## May 9, 2025

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### ***SECTION I: Legislative Updates***

Below is a selection of bills currently (as of April 28, 2025) before the Michigan Senate and the House of Representative. This selection is limited to educator workforce related bills with activity since the [February, 7 2025 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.

#### **Introduced Bills**

- **HB 4228** - school safety and security training. Introduced 3/12/2025, referred to Education and Workforce committee.
- **HB 4286** - Modifies health education standards and guidelines to include instruction on human development. Introduced 3/26/2025, referred to Education and Workforce committee.

#### **Moving Bills**

- **SB 83** - MI Future Educator Student Teaching Stipends. Passed the Senate 3/19/2025 and onto the House (Government Operations Committee).
- **HB 4150** - elimination of certificate application fees. Passed the House 3/12/2025 and onto the Senate (Education committee).
- **HB 4151** - modifying endorsement requirements for teachers and administrators. Passed the House 3/12/2025 and onto the Senate (Education committee).

- **HB 4152** - requirements for the approval of teacher preparation institutions. Reported out of Education and Workforce committee 3/5/2025. Requires House vote to move.
- **HB 4153** - district-level certifications for teachers and administrators; includes a sunset. Passed the House 3/12/2025 and onto the Senate (Education committee).
- **HB 4154** - regarding career and technical education. Passed the House and onto the Senate.
- **HB 4227** - requires ISDs to employ at least one emergency and safety manager and at least one mental health coordinator. Reported out of Education and Workforce committee 4/16/2025. Requires House vote to move to Senate.
- **HB 4238** - grant participation with foreign countries. Reported out of Government Operations committee 3/26/2025. Requires House vote to move to Senate.

## **Fiscal Year 2026 Budget**

The Executive Recommendation was put forth by the governor for the Fiscal Year 2026 budget. The Senate appropriations subcommittees have passed SB 165 & 166, for the MDE Budget and PK-12 Budget, respectively. Negotiations continue.

## ***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 [February, 7 2025 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:**

- [Educator from Alternative School in Lapeer County Named Michigan Teacher of Year](#)
- [Teachers Recognized by Students, Michigan Department of Education](#)
- [Three Michigan School Districts Will Consolidate, Modernize with Grant Funds](#)
- [Favorable Rulings in Title VI Court Cases](#)
- [Response to U.S. Department of Education Request for Title VI Compliance Recertification](#)
- [2025 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Public Reporting of Data](#)
- [State Board of Education Opposes Proposal to Transfer Power to Governor](#)
- [Co-Teaching at Dearborn Schools Helps Student With Autism Become Author](#)
- [Band Teacher with 50+ Years of Experience Featured in Latest #proudMIeducator Video](#)
- [State Superintendent Announces Retirement, Effective Oct. 3](#)
- [MDE Provides Clarification on School Funding Being Pulled Back by Federal Government](#)

- [State Superintendent, State Board President Issue Statement on U.S. Ed. Dept. Pulling Back Funding](#)
- [Order to Abolish U.S. Education Department, Cuts in Staff and Funding Are Harmful to Children](#)
- [Data Show Record-High Achievement for Michigan Public Schools in Many Areas](#)
- [2024-25 Regional Teachers of the Year Featured in Latest #proudMIeducator Video](#)
- [State Superintendent and State Board of Ed President Support Lawsuit Challenging U.S. Department of Education Cuts](#)
- [March is Reading Month in Spotlight at State Board of Education Meeting](#)
- [Improvements in Michigan's Public Schools Highlighted During State Board Meeting](#)
- [Statement from State Superintendent Michael F. Rice on U.S. Department of Education Staffing Reductions](#)
- [Follow-up Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the February 14 U.S. Department of Education Dear Colleague Letter and Diversity](#)
- [U.S. Department of Education Dear Colleague Letter and Diversity](#)
- [March is Reading Month Highlights Importance of Michigan's Early Literacy Efforts](#)
- [The Michigan Department of Education Celebrates March is Reading Month](#)
- [Information on Sections 35m and 35n and PAs 146 and 147](#)
- [Michigan Regional Teachers of the Year Announced for 2025-26](#)
- [Michigan Graduation Rate Hits New High](#)
- [Detroit All-Girls School Featured in Latest #proudMIeducator Video](#)
- [School Districts To Use Grant Funds to Help Students Explore Educator Careers](#)
- [Improving Early Literacy is Important Priority for Local and State Educators](#)
- [Michigan School Districts Earn \\$2.4M in Grants to Improve Health, Safety, and Wellness of All Learners](#)
- [Governor's Budget Provides Great Opportunity to Support School Children](#)

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

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

### **Interim Manager, DAU – Bridgett McDowell**

We are happy to announce that Bridgett McDowell has taken on the role of Interim Manager of OEE's Data and Accountability Unit. Bridgett has been with the department since 2019, working with the MTTC program. She earned her bachelor's degree in history from the University of Michigan and her master's degree in educational psychology from North Carolina State University. She has also participated in Michigan State University's Education Policy Fellowship Program and is a certified Project Management Professional. Before joining the department, Bridgett worked in test development and as a middle grades mathematics teacher. Please join us in welcoming Bridgett to this new role.







## **New Team Member – Lucas Treadwell, Certification Analyst**

We are happy to welcome Lucas Treadwell ([TreadwellL@Michigan.gov](mailto:TreadwellL@Michigan.gov)) to the PECS team as a Certification Analyst. His first day was April 14<sup>th</sup>. Lucas joins us from GVSU and if you've attended previous DARTEP meetings, his face may be familiar to you. His most recent role was Director of Continuing and Workforce Education. Prior to that he served as the Certification Officer in the College of Education and Community Innovation. Lucas went to school for Human Resources and Higher Education Leadership and lives in Grand Rapids, where he enjoys running, hiking, off-roading, spending time near bodies of water, and hanging out with his Golden Retriever, Lincoln.

## **Disciplinary Literacy & Dyslexia Requirements Application**

As we near the June 30, 2025, due date for PK-12 Literacy Preparation & Dyslexia applications, make note there are two more collaborative working sessions scheduled. EPP literacy teams can join the May 22 meeting at 2:00 PM at this [link](#), no registration is required. [Session slides and recordings](#) compiled from previous collaborations are available for your reference. Additionally pertinent resources and relevant professional learning webinars are listed below. For questions, please reach out to Dr. Ahlam Bazzi ([BazziA3@Michigan.gov](mailto:BazziA3@Michigan.gov)).

### *Resources and related links*

- [K-12 Literacy and Dyslexia Laws webpage](#)
- [PA 146 & PA 147 FAQ](#)
- [PA 147 Implementation FAQ](#)

### *Past Webinars*

- [Deon Butler - Learning to Read: The HOW and WHY of My Journey](#)
- [Michigan Dyslexia Handbook - Part 1](#)
- [Michigan Dyslexia Handbook - Part 2](#)

### *Upcoming Webinars*

- The Reading Brain Webinar May 15, 2025 @ 4PM  
[Zoom Registration](#)
- Engaging Classroom Libraries- Part 1 May 22, 2025 @ 4PM  
[Zoom Registration](#)
- Engaging Classroom Libraries- Part 2 May 29, 2025 @ 4PM  
[Zoom Registration](#)

## **MDE Education Workforce Job Fair**

There is one more virtual Education Workforce Job Fair in 2025:

- Wednesday, May 14, 10 am – 4 pm

For more information, please visit [Education Workforce Job Fairs](#).

## **MTTC: New Test Development – Social Studies (7-12)**

MDE is excited to kick off test development for Social Studies (7-12). Key dates to know:

- July 22 (all day), July 23 (all day), and July 24 (AM only):
  - Content Advisory Committee meets for Item Review Conference (Round 1)
  - In-person (Lansing area)
- July 24 (PM only) and July 25:
  - Equity and Access Committee meets for Item Review Conference (Round 1)
  - In-person (Lansing area)

As with any MTTC committee meeting, participants will receive:

- \$150 honorarium (per conference with 1+ day of work), paid directly to participant
- SCECHs
- Practice test voucher (given to higher education representatives)
- Hotel accommodations (in-person meetings)
- Travel reimbursement (in-person meetings), including meals and mileage
- High-quality professional development
- Direct input on teacher preparation requirements, shaping the direction of the field

One of the easiest, most direct ways to influence the MTTC program is to support higher education faculty/staff in attending MTTC conferences. An EPP can expand their influence over the program by nominating their recent graduates, cooperating/mentor teachers, and field supervisors to serve on committees.

Complete the brief (5-10 minutes) application here: <https://www.mirecruit.nesinc.com/>

## **Proud Michigan Educator Videos**

The latest [#proudMIeducator](#) video featuring Mr. Michael Rumbell of Northville Public Schools has been released. Mr. Rumbell is the band director at Northville High School and has been teaching for over 50 years! Take a moment to watch [#proudMIeducator: Michael Rumbell, Northville Public Schools](#). A complete playlist of our [#proudMIeducator](#) videos can be found at [#proudMIeducator - YouTube](#).

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: Special Education Teacher**

At the May State Board of Education meeting, on 5/13, Dr. Gina Garner and OEE Director Kelli Brozanski will join Nancy Rotarius from the Office of Special Education, our Deputy Superintendent Michele Harmala, and two specially recruited special educators to seek approval for new Special Education Teacher preparation standards. These standards were originally presented to the Board earlier this year and received robust – and robustly



positive – public comment. Tune in to the presentation to learn more!

## **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 August 12, 2025. A period of public comment will follow.

## **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. Specifically, candidates who will count as a Title II enrollee during the 2024-25 AY year should be in MOECS by June 30, 2025.

**Note:** Candidates enrolled in advanced programs (e.g., administrator, school psychologist, etc.) do not need to 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.

MDE will release a template in July for EPPs to add candidates who were unresponsive to EPP requests to create a MOECS account.

### Survey Timelines

#### SS2025 Candidate Suite

- Surveys were distributed March 19 and will remain in the field until June 15.
- Please remember to check your dashboard to monitor your individual response rates for the surveys.

#### FW2024 Candidate Suite Surveys

- Survey data were sent to the EPPs in mid-March.

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 147 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.

### **\*NEW\* Evaluating and Improving Teacher Preparation Programs: A Consensus Report From the National Academy of Education**

On May 22 at 2:00 pm, please join the NASTEC Professional Education Committee and the National Academy of Education for *Evaluating and Improving Teacher Preparation Programs: A Consensus Report From the National Academy of Education*; a webinar discussion with Linda Darling-Hammond, of the Learning Policy Institute, Kenneth Zeichner, from University of Washington, Yelena Bailey, from the Minnesota Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board, and Patrick Halladay, of the University of Vermont. Panelists will discuss the Evaluating and Improving Teacher Preparation Programs consensus report which provides critical, evidence-based recommendations for teacher preparation program (TPP) evaluation and improvement and the systemic changes necessary to improve teaching as a profession. Specifically, the report addresses four groups of recommendations: (1) improving TPP approval and accreditation, (2) enhancing TPP self-study, (3) providing system supports for TPP evaluation, and (4) creating system supports for teacher preparation and teaching. Register [here](#) and read the Consensus Report and Executive Summary [here](#).

### **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 go through 2023-24. Academic year 2023-24 data were released in March 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 Bridgett McDowell ([McDowellB@Michigan.gov](mailto:McDowellB@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

If you have not done so recently, 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. MDE recommends at least two contacts per EPP in case of staffing turnover and an emergency.

## 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<br>( <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<br>( <a href="mailto:MDE-Professional-Practice@Michigan.gov">MDE-Professional-Practice@Michigan.gov</a> ) |
| DARTEP Listserv   | DARTEP Website<br>( <a href="https://darTEP.org/listserv/index.php">https://darTEP.org/listserv/index.php</a> )                        |
| Data Requests   | Aishu Venkadachalam<br>( <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<br>( <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<br>( <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, | Gina Garner ( <a href="mailto:GarnerG2@Michigan.gov">GarnerG2@Michigan.gov</a> )   |

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| Early Childhood, School Counselor, School Psychologist, School Social Worker, 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<br>( <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> )<br>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> )<br>Vendor: <a href="mailto:title2@trewon.com">title2@trewon.com</a>                        |