



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 16, 2025

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

FROM: Michele A. Harmala, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent 
Division of Educator Excellence, Career and Technical Education, Special
Education, and Administrative Law

SUBJECT: Public Comment on the Proposed Standards for the Preparation of
Special Education Teachers

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) requests public comment on the Proposed Standards for the Preparation of Special Education Teachers. These proposed standards support goal 7 of [Michigan's Top 10 Strategic Education Plan](#) by increasing the numbers of certified teachers in areas of shortage.

The proposed standards would inform program development and continuous improvement efforts at Michigan's educator preparation institutions. Special education teacher preparation programs are responsible for ensuring new special educators demonstrate proficiency in these standards.

All feedback on the proposed standards must be submitted **by 11:59 p.m., February 27, 2025**, at the [Special Education Teacher Preparation Standards Public Comment website](#). All comments will be reviewed to prepare a final recommendation to the State Board of Education for the spring or summer of this year.

For additional information, please contact Dr. Gina Garner, higher education consultant, Office of Educator Excellence, at GarnerG1@Michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Departments

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