

# Education

## General Overview

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is responsible for providing educational services throughout the State. The Department's mission is to plan for the educational, training, and rehabilitation needs of Michigan's public school students.

Among the Department's primary functions are assisting the State Board of Education in providing educational leadership, advising the Legislature on the financial needs of schools, administering the State school aid program to schools, providing technical assistance to local intermediate school districts, and approving the certification of teachers.

## Major Divisions and Programs

**Special Education and Early Intervention Services.** The office oversees the administrative funding of education and early intervention programs and services for young children and students with disabilities.

**Professional Preparation Services.** The office fosters the educational achievement of all Michigan students by assuring that all professional school personnel complete quality preparation and professional development programs that meet standards established by the Michigan Legislature and the State Board of Education.

**Early Childhood Education and Family Services.** The office provides early childhood programs and services for all children from birth through age eight, parenting programs, and out-of-school-time programs for school-age children.

**School Improvement.** The office is dedicated to providing leadership and assistance at a state and local level to improve academic achievement of Michigan schools and students. It is comprised of three units: Curriculum and Instruction, Field Services Unit, and the Academic Support Unit.

**School Finance and School Law.** The office provides leadership and technical assistance on proposed state laws and current laws, the revised school code, the state school aid act, administrative rules, and nonpublic and home schools and student issues. The office also provides oversight of the Offices of State Aid and School Finance, Audits, and Administrative Law.

**Educational Assessment and Accountability.** The office is comprised of five programs: The Michigan Educational Assessment Program and the Merit Examination, Assessment of Students with Disabilities, Assessment of English Language Learners, Accreditation and Accountability, and National Assessment of Education Progress.

**Grants Administration and School Support.** The office administers several Federal and State programs. Federal programs are under the larger Child Nutrition and Food Distribution Program. State programs include Pupil Transportation and Rider Safety programs and the Driver Education program.