Right to Learn
~A Message from State Superintendent Mike Flanagan

State Superintendent Mike Flanagan shares his thoughts on keeping the enthusiasm of teaching and learning alive in our schools. Honoring the work of teachers and giving state legislators the opportunity to move Michigan forward with thoughtful and progressive education reforms will foster good will and great schools for our state.

To watch the podcast, click link below:
http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-37818_45256-290743--,00.html
Doing Business in Birmingham

By Rick Joseph

5th and 6th grade students from Covington, a Birmingham Public School, acquired new understandings about the nature of sustainable business practices from classroom research and site visits to the Detroit Opera House, Ford Field, and the General Motors Sustainability Lab. They then asked themselves an essential question: “How can we use our newfound knowledge to meet a need?”

Students at Covington School have spent the last year examining sustainable business practices and determining the extent to which they can educate local business people about the benefits of practicing sustainability. While many people acknowledge the importance of going green, a significant impact for businesses has been on their bottom line. “While people realize the importance of conserving water, turning off lights, and recycling in order to preserve and protect the earth, they also like to save money,” says 6th grader Zoha Siddiqui.

Partners Pauline Roberts and Rick Joseph share 54 kids, all of whom are involved in the execution of the project. Students broke out into small groups between 4-6 kids and hit the streets of downtown Birmingham in April, with flyers and brochures in hand. The project continues as businesses vie for a place of honor on the class Sustainability Honor Roll.

Our aim is to educate business owners about sustainability and help students see that their learning extends well beyond the walls of the classroom.

Visit http://doingbusinessinbirmingham.wikis.birmingham.k12.mi.us/Honor+Roll for more information.

Rick Joseph
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Birmingham Covington School
Twitter: @joberts

The Network of Michigan Educators is a collaborative partnership of recognized educators working to improve teaching and learning by informing practice, research, and policy.

Michigan Teacher of the Year Program
Milken National Educator Award
Michigan Virtual University On-line Teacher of the Year
Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching
National Board Certification
Christa McAuliffe Fellowship Program
Partnership for Success Partner Educators
National Science Foundation Einstein Fellows
Michigan Elementary-Middle Principal of the Year
National Distinguished Principal
Michigan Secondary Principal of the Year
Michigan Superintendent of the Year

Reagan Hurd (left) Roman Roberts (middle) interview the office manager from Lutz Real Estate, Birmingham
Message # 124: Discipline and the Achievement Gap

“Discipline practices in schools affect the social quality of each educational environment, and the ability of children to achieve the academic and social gains essential for success in a 21st century society.” (Skiba, Horner, Chung, Rausch, May and Tobin).

One of the most consistent findings of modern education research is the strong positive relationship between time engaged in academic learning and student achievement (Brophy, 1988; Fisher et al., 1981; Greenwood, Horton, & Utley, 2002).

Michigan students lost 251,410 days of instruction due to suspensions and expulsions in the 2010-2011 school year, according to the most current data from the Office of Special Education (OSE).

Between 2009 and 2010, black students, ages 3 to 21 with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) were expelled at a significantly disproportionate rate relative to other racial ethnic groups. Research shows that students who are suspended or expelled are more likely to do poorly in school and subsequently drop out.¹

A Discussion of the Problem

Between 2009 and 2011, there was a 76 percent increase in the number of new Michigan school districts identified for significant disproportionality for discipline. When a district is identified for significant disproportionality for discipline, the

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires state review, public reporting and coordinated early intervening services.

The use of suspension and expulsion also has raised civil rights concerns due to strong and consistent evidence that students of color are over-represented among those who are so disciplined. A number of authors have argued that the increased use of zero tolerance is directly responsible for increasing racial and ethnic disparities in school discipline.²

The MDE/OSE has launched a five-year effort to reduce, with the goal of eliminating, the problem of Significant Disproportionality for Discipline in Michigan. The OSE has developed a system of support to advance evidence-based education practices to assist students with IEPs. Projects developed by the 11 organizations that make up the Mandated Activities Projects (MAPs) System of Support will support the OSE in this new effort.

In a resolution dated June 12, 2012, the Michigan State Board of Education called to end Zero Tolerance policies. Because of the lack of evidence that Zero Tolerance polices improve safety, and citing the negative impact Zero Tolerance disciplinary actions have on student outcomes, the State Board of Education called for schools across the state to adopt discipline policies without mandated suspension or expulsion for issues that do not involve weapons.³

Please read rest of article on page 9.
2011 PAEMST Winners Announced

This summer, President Obama named the 97 recipients of the 2011 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). The awards are given annually to outstanding K-12 science and mathematics teachers from across the country. The winners are selected by a panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians, and educators following an initial selection process done at the state level. Each year the award alternates between teachers teaching kindergarten through 6th grade and those teaching 7th through 12th grades. The 2011 awardees named teachers 7th through 12th grades. This group of outstanding secondary math and science teachers received their awards in Washington DC this past summer and received an $10,000 award from the National Science Foundation.

In the words of his fellow physics teachers: “Don Pata, from Grosse Pointe North High School, is the selection from Michigan. Don is most worthy of this award. He has been a dynamic and inspirational leader for Michigan Science teachers. Don is a frequent presenter at meetings and conferences of the Detroit Metropolitan Area Physics Teachers (DMAPT), the Metro Detroit Science Teachers Association (MDSTA), the Michigan Science Teachers Association (MSTA), and the Michigan Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers (MI-AAPT).”

Don was a designer and developer of the Square One Network workshop, Cell Phones and Wireless Communications and has presented this material to hundreds of teachers at summer workshops and at the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) and the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT) national conferences.

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The MDE proudly announces the launch of the Michigan’s Career & College Ready Portal. This website has been created to connect users with resources and tools that can assist educators in helping all students to graduate career- and college-ready. This site directs users to helpful resources with minimum-click browsing.

MDE consultants will be able to use the portal to direct educators in the field to quality resources and current, accurate information. The portal will be updated as new sites and resources become available in order to offer the most current information. This website can be found at: http://www.michiganccr.org/
2012 Michigan Reads!

The 2012 Michigan Reads! program has launched in libraries, schools, Head Starts and Great Start Readiness programs. Michigan Reads is a statewide early literacy program from the Library of Michigan. This learning program provides participants with a kit based on a particular picture book each year.

This is the eighth year of the program and the 2012 book is Kathy-Jo Wargin’s “Moose on the Loose.” The book is full of movement and activity as a little boy meets up with a moose. Using cause-and-effect prose, the reader travels with the moose through the catchy, rhyming text, anticipating the moose’s next moves as the boy tries to keep up with this outdoor animal on the run.

For more information on the program, the kit contents and other early literacy materials, you can go to www.michigan.gov/michiganreads.

Career and Technical Education Update

In 2012, 95% of Michigan secondary students who completed a state-approved career and technical education (CTE) program the prior year, were either employed or in continuing education or training, or both. Of those who were in continuing education, over 90% were attending a community college, trade school, or university. Of those who were employed, about 35% were employed full-time and of those employed full-time, over 60% were employed in a field related to their high school CTE program. In 2011-12, students were enrolled in programs in 16 career cluster areas with the largest numbers of students enrolled in programs in the Business, Management and Administration, Marketing, Health Sciences, or Architecture and Construction clusters.
Exciting news! The Michigan Department of Education’s Team Nutrition program was awarded a USDA grant to partner with the School Nutrition Association Of Michigan (SNAM) to promote Smarter Lunchrooms strategies statewide (http://www.smarterlunchrooms.org). The Smarter Lunchrooms Movement was started in 2009 with the goal of creating sustainable research-based lunchrooms that guide smarter choices. It is a grassroots evidence-based movement that promotes healthful eating. The four core values of this movement include: Low cost/No-Cost Solutions; Lunchroom Environment Focus; Promotion of healthful eating behaviors; and Sustainability.

This means that in the next two years, Team Nutrition will be offering fifty $1000 Smarter Lunchroom grants, partnering with MOR, GLC, and SPARC to conduct Smarter Lunchrooms trainings, and working with SNAM to increase child nutrition, professional social media engagement, and attendance at the SNAM 2013 conference.

We want you to be a part of this fun Smarter Lunchroom campaign by joining Michigan Team Nutrition online. This is an opportunity to share success stories, recipes, or photos with innovators in the state. Michigan Team Nutrition will be holding online Facebook competitions throughout 2013 and 2014 to showcase the successful strategies. However, in order to participate, you have to “like” Michigan Team Nutrition on Facebook!

You can be a part of this movement now by simply:

1. Liking Michigan Team Nutrition on Facebook: www.facebook.com/michiganteamnutrition
2. Following Michigan Team Nutrition on Twitter at http://twitter.com/TeamNutritionMI
3. Subscribing to the Michigan Team Nutrition Youtube channel: www.youtube.com/user/miteamnutrition1

If you have any Smarter Lunchroom strategies that have worked for you already, please share them with Team Nutrition by emailing Nick Drzal at drzaln@michigan.gov.
MeL Celebrates Its 20th Anniversary

October marks 20 years of no-cost access for Michigan residents to the rich online resources found at the Michigan eLibrary, nicknamed: MeL (www.mel.org).

Businesses, schools, and individuals have spent two decades relying on MeL to connect them with premium databases – millions of full-text articles, digital images, business and job and information, K-12 curricular resources, homework helpers and much more – saving them thousands of dollars in subscription fees for these specialty information sources.

MeL has been a national pioneer in statewide online information service. MeL’s success and availability recently have been reflected in Governor Rick Snyder’s support. The state’s Fiscal Year 2012-13 budget provides the Michigan Department of Education with a $1.75 million appropriation for the Library of Michigan’s budget for MeL, including an $800,000 increase earmarked for additional business, entrepreneurial and career resources.

The Michigan eLibrary is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week and is used and promoted by all Michigan libraries. Via the Internet, state residents can access full-text articles and digitized archival records; borrow books; find jobs; help with starting or growing a business; take ACT practice exams; locate lesson plans for the classroom and much more.

In 1997 AccessMichigan first provided licensed commercial databases through Michigan libraries. In 1999, the Action Team for Advancement of Libraries Statewide (ATLAS) began developing a statewide patron initiated interloan system that eventually became MeLCat in 2005.

The Michigan eLibrary is made possible by grant funds from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) administered by the State of Michigan through the Library of Michigan with additional funding provided by the State of Michigan.

For more information on the Michigan eLibrary contact Deb Biggs Thomas, Michigan eLibrary Coordinator, at biggsthomasd@michigan.gov, phone at 517-373-4466, or MeL website: www.mel.org.

MDE, OSE Guide to Notice

The Michigan Special Education One Pager: Notice is part of a series of documents and training opportunities about special education in Michigan developed by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), Office of Special Education (OSE).

This document defines notice and explains the district responsibilities for providing notice to the parent as mandated under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education (MARSE).
DLM Consortium Releases Common Core Essential Elements

Special educators from Michigan and other member states of the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) alternate assessment consortium have created Common Core Essential Elements (CCEEs) in English language arts and mathematics which are linked to the already-adopted Common Core State Standards (CCSSs). CCEEs provide alternate grade level content standards linked to the common core and they are now available for your review.

For a copy of the English language arts and mathematics CCSSs and the CCEEs with examples, please visit the DLM link on the MI-Access website at www.michigan.gov/mi-access.

Alternate assessments based on the CCEEs are being developed by the DLM alternate assessment consortium and will be available for use in Michigan starting in the 2014-15 school year.

To help educators understand the CCSSs and the corresponding CCEEs and their application to students with significant cognitive disabilities, the DLM alternate assessment consortium has created and will continue to provide self-directed learning modules. Each of the interactive modules is short (30-45 minutes on average) and focuses on a single topic. Three learning models have been created so far. You can access these modules by clicking on the following link: Self-Directed Learning Modules or by going to the DLM link located on the MI-Access web page at www.michigan.gov/mi-access.

When you select a learning module, please be certain to complete the information regarding your name, school, and state. If you have questions about these modules, please contact dlm@unc.edu.

Module 1: Common Core Overview

Description: This self-directed module provides an introduction to the CCSSs in English Language Arts and Mathematics for teachers who work with students with significant cognitive disabilities who will complete the alternate assessment.

Module 2: Common Core Essential Elements

Module 3: Universal Design for Learning

Description: This self-directed module provides an introduction to Universal Design for Learning as it relates to the CCSS sand students with significant cognitive disabilities.

The DLM Newsletter provides short descriptions and updates about the DLM alternate assessment consortium and its activities. The Inaugural Edition of the DLM Newsletter is posted to the MI-Access website and can also be accessed by clicking on the following link: DLM Newsletter October 2012.
The Alternative

Reducing the suspension imbalance is likely to involve a combination of changes in school culture and policy. Discipline models that focus on teaching pro-social behaviors, repairing relationships and inclusion rather than punishment have shown to be effective alternatives to suspension and expulsion and have positive student outcomes.

The following are examples of effective discipline frameworks:
- Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)/Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS)
- Restorative Justice
- Restitution (i.e. community service, clean up, etc.)

Call to Action

Learn more about positive discipline approaches by visiting www.cenmi.org. Read and share articles about MAPs activities found at focus.cenmi.org. Find resources at Michigan’s Integrated Behavior and Learning Support Initiative mibsi.cenmi.org and learn about implementing Restorative Justice approaches in your school or district restorativesolutions.us/schools.

Possibilities Video Series Showcases Self-Determined Lives

The Developmental Disabilities Institute (DDI) at Wayne State University is Michigan’s University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD). In 2012, DDI launched its Possibilities Video Series which focuses on the lives and accomplishments of persons with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Each 4-7 minute video highlights one individual’s journey, along with their family and friends, and shows the myriad possibilities and options that all people have as they grow up, become independent, and pursue their dreams and goals. The purpose of the Possibilities Series is to present a vision of how individuals with disabilities can lead the lives that they envision, without barriers and in the direction they truly wish to go. The videos are available free on DVD or by visiting the DDI website - http://ddi.wayne.edu - where all four videos are available for instant viewing and sharing with your colleagues and friends.

DDI and the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) share common goals of ensuring that all people have access to quality education. Jane Reagan represents MDE on the DDI Consumer Advisory Committee and the
**PBS and The Henry Ford are Honoring America’s Most Innovative Teachers**

**2012 Teacher Innovator Awards**

The [2012 Teacher Innovator Awards](http://www.pbslearningmedia.org/innovators) is nearing the deadline for entries (12/12/12) and we’d like to call on you to help with a final push to engage the innovative teachers, homeschoolers, technology coordinators, and media specialists in your community.

PBS LearningMedia and The Henry Ford are co-sponsoring the 2012 Teacher Innovator Awards to recognize America’s educators who demonstrate innovative use of digital media in the classroom. The contest is open to all PreK-12 U.S. educators, and entries are due by Wednesday, 12/12/12.

Thirty winners across subject areas will be recognized.

1st prize - The top 10 winners get an all-paid, week-long “innovation Immersion Experience” at The Henry Ford in Dearborn, Michigan, in August 2013, plus a free PBS TeacherLine professional development course.

2nd prize - The second 10 winners will receive a Promethean ActiView document camera.

3rd prize - All 30 winners will get a chock-full gift bag a chock-full gift bag from PBS and The Henry Ford and will be connected with their local PBS member station for local press opportunities.

Additional information for educators, how to enter, FAQs, galleries of past winners, and more can be found at: [http://www.pbslearningmedia.org/innovators](http://www.pbslearningmedia.org/innovators)

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Know a truly innovative teacher? Want to honor him or her?

Here is the chance. And, it is easy.

PBS and The Henry Ford, Detroit’s world-class museum and destination, have teamed up again this year to honor innovative teacher across America.

DPT V teaming up with THF and PBS to help drive entries. (‘sides, it’s a great way to honor some of the most wonderful people in our community).

Entering is easy. However the deadline is next week. All of the details follow in an easy-to-forward format.

Enter your favorite innovative teacher and forward this to your colleagues.
WHAT’S NEXT

State Board of Education Meeting ........ Dec 11, 2012
NME Recognition Banquet and Annual Conf .. Dec, 13-14
State Board of Education Meeting ......... Jan 15, 2013
MASA Midwinter Conf .................. Jan 23-25, 2013
MI Collaborative Early Childhood Conf .. Jan 23-25, 2013
MI School Improv Facilitators Network .... Jan 29-30

ON THE HORIZON

State Board of Education Meeting ........ Feb 12, 2013
2013 MACUL Conference ............... March 20-22, 2013
MiAEYC Conference ..................... April 4-6, 2013
Governor’s Education Summit ............ April 22, 2013
MSBO Annual Conference ............... April 23-25, 2013
MI Division for Early Childhood (MiDEC) Conf ... April 26
MI Assoc Infant Mental Health (MI-AIMH) Conf ... May 19