Participation At-Risk Notice

The Michigan Department of Education has released a list of schools that received a red Scorecard result for 2013-14 due to low participation. The schools on this list are at-risk for being subjected to supports and interventions for not meeting the required 95% participation rate on state assessments.

Under the current ESEA Flexibility Waiver, as well as in the proposed ESEA Flexibility Waiver Renewal, schools that are “red” for participation for two consecutive years (or for three years out of five years), are named an “Assessment Participation Non-Compliant School.” These schools will be subject to the levels of supports and interventions listed below:

- **Year 1:** School will receive a letter outlining escalating consequences for years 2-4 of non-compliance.
- **Year 2:** School will be required to investigate, develop, and implement a plan to address root causes for low participation. The plan will require MDE approval.
- **Year 3:** Technical assistance will be provided to adjust and implement the approved plan and an additional district set-aside of 3-5% of Title I funds will be required to address identified causes. The set-aside range is required to differentiate effective interventions depending on the size and nature of the problem(s). This represents an increase over the 1% set-aside required by ESEA for parent engagement and other district set-asides required by ESEA and ESEA Flexibility.
- **Year 4:** The plan will be updated as needed and there will be a continuation of the set-aside for implementation with an increased withholding of 25% of Title I funds until benchmarks are reached. Percentages may be escalated in subsequent years if needed.

If at any time the MDE determines that the student lack of participation infraction becomes egregious, the school may be place under the authority of the State of Michigan School Reform Office.

Schools currently listed as at-risk should carefully monitor their assessment participation and ensure accurate and up-to-date enrollment records exist in the Michigan Student Data System (MSDS). The Division of Accountability Services (DAS) will NOT be able to use the MSDS End-of-Year General Collection, so it is important that any updates you want reflected in accountability and assessment reporting are submitted in MSDS by 5:00 PM on June 15, 2015. DAS will only be pulling the final student data from MSDS after 5:00 PM on June 15 and will only be using data with an “As of Date” on or before June 5, 2015. This is important to let your district MSDS person know. Schools will continue to have the opportunity to submit reasons for non-participating students during the Students Not Tested window (Tentatively set for June 17, 2015 – 5:00 PM July 8, 2015).

Schools currently not on the participation at-risk list should continue to monitor assessment participation in order to ensure participation levels continue to meet the 95% requirement for ALL applicable subgroups.

To view the list of schools at-risk, please visit:  
www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/SchoolsAtRiskForParticipationNoncompliance_491462_7.xlsx

Questions regarding participation rates and their calculations may be directed to the Office of Evaluation, Strategic Research, and Accountability (OESRA): mde-accountability@michigan.gov OR 877-560-8378.

Questions regarding supports and interventions for schools labelled “Assessment Participation Non-Compliant” may be directed to the Office of Education Improvement and Innovation (OEII): 517-241-3147 or the Office of Field Services (OFS): 517-373-3921.