Upping-the-Ante

At its September 2011 meeting, the State Board of Education approved more rigorous standards for scores on the statewide achievement tests - the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) and the Michigan Merit Exam (MME). The impact of this change will be profound for students across our state and will help drive improvement in our system of education. These new measurement standards are geared to better reflect whether students are on-track to be career- and college-ready upon completion of K-12 education.

The previous passing score for the state assessments was set at a very basic level – and “proficiency” meant that a student would be able to handle a minimal trade in the outdated manufacturing economy. Today’s students are facing a very different world upon graduation. They need the higher level knowledge to succeed in a competitive global workplace, even in a skilled trade – a far greater challenge than just being basic.

We had to up the ante. Under the new cut scores, students will be required to answer roughly 65 percent of the test questions correctly in order to be deemed proficient and “pass” the state test, compared to only getting 39 percent correct, as required under the previous benchmark.

We know that this change may expose a painful truth: the improved cut scores will most likely have the initial result of far fewer students testing as proficient. But we believe that it is important that parents, students, and educators be given accurate data that will enable us to move our students ahead and prepare them for real success.

We chose to make this dramatic change all at once and not dribble it out over several years. Doing this will give our schools a realistic picture of student achievement levels and allow them to build from there. From a practical standpoint, we will only have to explain once why this has happened.

ALL schools’ scores will be recalibrated to the new benchmark at one time. To assist communities in preparing for the stark change in test scores, MDE will be providing schools with the past four years of testing results, calculated to show proficiency levels as if the new cut scores had been in place. This will allow districts and schools whose academic results have been increasing over time to show continued growth, despite the bar being raised this year.

Another benefit to this new benchmark is its alignment with the direction and expectations of schools from the federal level. The “raising of the bar” on state standards is now a requirement for eligibility for the federal waivers recently announced by President Obama, which I was on hand to witness from the White House Briefing Room. Through my working partnership with Education Secretary Arne Duncan, we were able to “read the writing on the wall” and anticipate what was coming. The next step in this alignment will be when the state House and Senate Education committees give their approvals to the proposed new school accreditation system.

I think the State Board of Education did the right thing in adopting these bold measures. These actions have “upped the ante” and will allow our students to become much more competitive in a global society by predicting a student’s true likelihood of success in career or college, without remediation at the post-secondary level. I have confidence that educators and students -- as they have done in the past -- will continue to meet and surpass the challenges before them.
Annual Regional Meetings to Support Career & College Readiness

Last fall, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) organized a series of regional meetings to introduce Michigan educators to the new Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for Mathematics and ELA, and the proposed assessments of these standards.

This fall, the MDE is planning another series of regional meetings that build on last year’s introduction by delving deeper into what it takes to prepare students to be Career and College Ready. Topics will range from systems to classroom supports and will include panel discussions as well as voices from the field. Please plan to attend the event scheduled for your area.

- Monday, October 31, 2011 • DeVos Place, Grand Rapids
- Tuesday, November 1, 2011 • Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti
- Friday, November 4, 2011 • Northern Michigan University, Marquette
- Thursday, November 10, 2011 • Northwestern Michigan College Hagerty Center, Traverse City
- Monday, November 14, 2011 • Saginaw Valley State University, Saginaw

Registration in now available for these meetings. Register online or by fax.

Do you have something you would like to share at one of the meetings? Please contact Kellie Flaminio (flaminiok@michigan.gov) to request a speaker form.

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MICHIGAN READS!


This original “Michigan Reads!” program is devoted to increasing early childhood literacy and pre-reading readiness. The program was launched on September 8th, International Literacy Day, with Governor Rick Snyder, and author Scillian reading “Memoirs” at the Henry Ford Centennial Library in Dearborn. This kick-off will be followed by events and author visits scheduled throughout the state.

Sponsored by the Library of Michigan Foundation in partnership with Target, the “Michigan Reads!” program recognizes the importance and value of libraries in providing quality books, programs and services to children and families in Michigan. These books and services provide a foundation for literacy, enabling future school success.

In specific, the program designed to emphasize the importance of shared reading practices with babies, toddlers, preschoolers, and young school-age children. These practices set the stage for fluent reading achievement in children.

As a result of Target’s support, the Library of Michigan is providing a hardcover copy of the book and programming materials to all public libraries, elementary schools, Head Start and Great Start Readiness programs across the state. In addition, Scillian and Bowers will tour Michigan libraries and schools. The “Michigan Reads!” program provides librarians, early childhood educators, parents, and caregivers with ideas to help children develop literacy skills through play-based activities.

You can find more information, materials for teachers, parents and caregivers, the programming guide and graphics at www.michigan.gov/michiganreads.
Career Technical Education and Career and College Readiness

In 2008-09, over a third of Michigan's 11th and 12th grade students were enrolled in career or technical education programs. Further, almost 19,000 Michigan students completed a state approved Career and Technical Education Program in areas like business, health science, or architecture and construction.

A follow up survey of the students who completed career and technical education programs shows that most continue on to postsecondary education, with 70 percent of those surveyed attending a university or community college.

This and other information is included in the annual Michigan Department of Education Office of Career and Technical Education Fact Sheet. The 2009-10 Fact Sheet will be out in November of 2011. For more information please contact Jacqueline Dannis in the Office of Career and Technical Education, at 517-335-1066.

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The Principals Academy

The Principals Academy is an exciting and focused initiative with the singular objective of creating and sustaining a professional learning community for principals that are leading schools that have been identified on the Persistently Lowest Achieving list. Initiated by the Office of Education Improvement and Innovation (OEII), the first Principal Academy met at the Lansing Center on August 17, 2011.

The Academy was collaboratively created by principals and members of the OEII team. It is a principal-directed and OEII facilitated venture. The agenda, activities, and topics are heavily driven by the academy principals' most pressing needs.

More than 40 principals traveled across the state to share best practices and what is working in their schools. The principals represented a wide-ranging assembly of educational institutions comprised of public, charter and inner-city schools; large and small schools, high schools, middle schools, and elementary schools, as well as representing a racially comprehensive cross section of Michigan schools. The building leaders came because they all shared a common quest to learn how to increase student achievement.

The activities were differentiated and interactive, including; a panel comprised of four successful principals, participation in two of the five round table discussions, and based on their preselected reading choices - participated in one of the five study groups. Questions regarding this program can be directed to Mark Coscarella, Assistant Director, Office of Education Improvement and Innovation at coscarellam@michigan.gov.
Meeting with the Governor

By Paul Galbenski

Serving as the 2011-2012 Michigan Teacher of the Year is truly an amazing opportunity to represent all of the outstanding educators in our great State of Michigan. I am honored and humbled to be that voice for my fellow educators! As educators, we are always looking to expand our experiences as well as focus on continuous improvement.

This process applies to both our personal and professional development. I know that throughout this school year, I will have the opportunity to receive the best possible professional development training through my hands-on experiences as the Michigan Teacher of the Year. All of us learn through a variety of teaching methods and being a Career and Technical Education (CTE) teacher, many of my students find success through project-based learning utilizing a hands-on approach.

Recently, I had the opportunity for a brief meeting with Governor Rick Snyder. Our conversation focused on preparing our future workforce with an emphasis on CTE and programs of study for our students. I truly believe that Career and Technical education, coupled with academics that are provided through CTE, is the path that we need to continue to promote, not only to move Michigan forward but to continue building our nation with a well-educated and highly-skilled workforce!

I am looking forward to the Governor’s November address as he details his plans for our students and I am interested in seeing how closely it aligns with the outstanding educational opportunities we are currently providing for our students in Career and Technical Education as we are preparing tomorrow’s workforce today!

Engaging Students In Learning Mathematics
Grants for Grades 6–8 Teachers

The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) has announced a new grant that is to incorporate middle school classroom materials or lessons that actively engage students in tasks and experiences to deepen and connect their content knowledge. For 2012-2013, grants with a maximum of $3,000 each will be awarded to persons currently teaching mathematics in grades 6–8. Materials may be in the form of books, visual displays, slide shows, videotapes, or other appropriate medium. Materials may not be calculators, computers, or related equipment. Although such equipment is essential in today’s classroom, this award is not intended to purchase such equipment. The focus of these materials should be on showing the connectivity of mathematics to other fields or to the world around us. Proposals must address the following: one or more of the Content Standards: number and operations, geometry, measurement, algebra; plan for developing and evaluating materials; and the anticipated impact on students’ learning.

The applicant must be a current (as of October 14, 2011) Full Individual or E-Member of NCTM or teach at a school with a current (as of October 14, 2011) NCTM PreK–8 school membership and currently teach mathematics in grades 6–8 at least 50 percent of the school day. Project activities are to be completed between June 1, 2012, and May 31, 2013. For more information on this grant opportunity, please visit the grant abstract on the NCTM website at: http://www.nctm.org/resources/content.aspx?id=1320.

Guidance on Financial Best Practices Incentive, Section 22f

On June 21, 2011, the Governor enacted legislation under Section 22f of the State School Aid Act, 2011 PA 62, that appropriates $154 million to provide $100 per pupil allocations for the FY 2011-2012 school year to local school districts and public school academies meeting 4 out of 5 of the following financial best practices.


“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.”

– Barack Obama
The Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI), in partnership with the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), and intermediate school districts, recently launched the first stage of a new education information website called MI School Data. The site, [www.michigan.gov/mischooldata](http://www.michigan.gov/mischooldata), launched in August, will become the home to all state-level education data covering preschool through postsecondary education.

Some of the information in this first release includes state assessment results, the Annual Education Report which contains Adequate Yearly Progress, student counts, School Report Cards, and various measurements at school and district levels stemming from the Michigan Education Dashboard. The Michigan Education Dashboard metrics provided in MI School Data include several of the data elements necessary to meet the education dashboard best practices that schools must make publicly available to qualify for incentive funding under the State School Aid Act.

“We are pleased to provide citizens and school officials with this new site,” said Thomas Howell, Director of CEPI, an office within the Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget. “This provides an effective and easy way to obtain important education information.”

CEPI is already preparing for the next MI School Data release planned for fall. The second release will include high school graduation rates, non-resident enrollment data, college readiness indicators, ACT results, principal effectiveness measures and postsecondary enrollment and persistence rates for public high schools.

The Macomb Intermediate School District, Calhoun Intermediate School District, and Shiawassee Regional Education Service District were key partners in this effort. In addition to partnering on site development, they also were instrumental in providing training and helpdesk support for the initiative. The work has included many other stakeholders from early childhood and postsecondary groups as well. The MI School Data site will bring greater focus to these groups in the years ahead.

The MI School Data website will provide better access and transparency to the information gathered by various state agencies pertaining to education in Michigan. This valuable new resource can be accessed at [www.michigan.gov/mischooldata](http://www.michigan.gov/mischooldata).

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**Fulbright-Hays Seminars Abroad Program**

For Fiscal Year (FY) 2012, the U.S. Department of Education’s Fulbright-Hays Seminars Abroad Program is offering five seminars to educators and administrators at the K-12 and Postsecondary levels. Additionally, there will be a special overseas seminar to India designed for presidents, provosts, and academic vice presidents of U.S. colleges and universities who lead the effort to establish and/or refine their institution’s international education vision and agenda.

This is a great professional development opportunity for U.S. educators and administrators who wish to internationalize their curriculum and classrooms. We need your assistance in disseminating this information to the potential applicants in a timely manner and thus, respectfully request that you send the attached flyer inviting and encouraging eligible individuals to apply.

For more information, visit the Web site at [http://www.ed.gov/programs/iegipssa](http://www.ed.gov/programs/iegipssa), or email the Seminars Abroad Program Coordinator, Carly Borgmeier at Carly.Borgmeier@ed.gov.
Early and Middle Colleges Initiative

The Early/Middle College concept is a national initiative created to help at-risk students. It began as a strategy to keep at-risk youth in high school by allowing students to take college level courses along with their high school requirements. The students are enrolled in a cohort and are allowed to stay in high school a fifth year. At the end of the fifth year, students have their high school diploma and up to an Associate Degree from a postsecondary institution. These schools offer opportunities for students to experience relevance in their high school assignments as it relates to their postsecondary requirements and/or career choice. The overall goal is one we are working on in Michigan to help students achieve their college and career goals, who would otherwise not be on a college/career track.

In recent years, the movement has blossomed and has captured the attention of all students' in our Michigan schools. Currently, Michigan has eighteen Early/Middle Colleges and is expected to continue to grow. Many of our schools have a very specific career focus either on Health Care careers or Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) field. This initiative offers multiple educational options for our students' and creates numerous paths for success. The hope is that all students have the opportunity to earn college credit while in high school and to reach the ultimate goal of increasing the number of Michigan citizens with a post-secondary credential.

If you would more information on this initiative, please feel free to contact Michigan Department of Education, Office of Career and Technical Education, at 517-241-0260 or email Christine Reiff at reiffc@michigan.gov.

New Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Programs

Did you know?
• According to the Michigan Department of Labor, in 2010, Michigan outpaced the nation in the rate of job growth in each of six high-tech industry clusters with a growth rate of 3%; and
• Job recovery in Michigan was concentrated in the manufacturing, professional, and engineering services sectors that supply large numbers of high-tech jobs.

This is why we are thrilled to announce the release of three new Career and Technical Education STEM programs for 2012-13 school year:
• Mechatronics
• Engineering Technology
• Mechanical Drafting

In addition, plans are in place for the development of an Electric/Hybrid Automotive Technician program.

At OCTE, we are working closely with industry to ensure that our CTE programs are addressing labor demand needs. If you would like more information or are interested in establishing a program in your district, please contact Pat Talbott in the Office of Career and Technical Education at 517-335-0359.
Enter the Great American Teach-Off
Win $10,000 for your favorite classroom

The online community at GOOD, The University of Phoenix and Grammy Award-winning artist John Legend, have teamed up to sponsor The Great American Teach-Off, a contest to recognize the exceptional work of classroom teachers in America.

Over the past year, the education conversation has largely been critical of policymakers, teachers, unions and administrators. While this examination is largely necessary, it shouldn’t keep us from seeing those educators who truly are making a difference in their students’ lives—often times overcoming significant obstacles to achievement. To this end, GOOD and their partners are launching The Great American Teach-Off—a nationwide competition that will identify classroom heroes and reward one with a $10,000 grant to use towards his or her classroom.

Starting this school year, anyone can go to www.GOOD.is/GATO and nominate an elementary school (K-6) teacher who is making a difference in children’s lives. The top ten entrants will be chosen by an independent panel assembled by the sponsors. Then, starting in the fall the public will have five weeks to vote for a winner, who will receive a $10,000 classroom grant and other prizes.

The contest will take place again in early 2012 for middle school and high school teachers (grades 7-12).

Visit www.GOOD.is/GATO today to nominate yourself or a deserving teacher.
Michigan College Access Portal (MichiganCAP)

The development and launch of the Michigan College Access Portal (MichiganCAP) in the past year has been a major accomplishment of staff connected with the federal College Access Challenge Grant (CACG) in the Michigan Department of Treasury and the Michigan Department of Education (MDE). The portal is a central piece of the CACG and the state’s combined effort with the Michigan College Access Network (MCAN) in promoting college access for first generation, low-income and underrepresented students in Michigan. Along with the first year of the MichiganCAP, the new College Access and Outreach Unit was established in MDE.

MichiganCAP is a statewide initiative that provides free support for all students and families in Michigan to simplify the process of transitioning from high school to college and career. It is a comprehensive one-stop-shop for students to plan, apply, and pay for college.

MichiganCAP offers students, parents, counselors, advisers, and adult learners easy-to-use, Web-based, and personalized tools to ensure that each step in the process of choosing and applying to college is completed successfully. The portal also offers information regarding career paths, and students will be able to map a plan of action to achieve their aspirations.

To register and become a MichiganCAP user, go to: www.MichiganCAP.org. NOTE: Mozilla Firefox is the preferred Web browser.

High School Counselor Financial Aid Web Cast

The 2011 High School Counselor Financial Aid Update Web cast event is a collaborative effort between the College Access & Outreach Unit of MDE and the Michigan Student Financial Aid Association (MSFAA).

The web cast will take place October 28th from 9:00 AM – 12:15 PM.

The Web cast information will be presented by members of MSFAA; by the Office Scholarships & Grants (OSG, Treasury); by DHS Foster Youth in Transition (YIT) staff; MET/MESP; EduGuide; and the Michigan College Access Network (MCAN). The web cast will be streamed out to 26 sites throughout the state. The sites are a mix of community colleges, four-year public and four-year independent postsecondary institutions and one ISD that collaborates with a community college financial aid office. The attendees may register at any of these sites or at the MDE website: http://www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid/0,4636,7-128-38193_38211---,00.htm.

There is no cost to register to attend the web cast.
The Cyber Foundations Competition

The Cyber Foundations Competition is the entry-level competition in a series of increasingly challenging contests sponsored by the U.S. Cyber Challenge (USCC). USCC was chartered to identify and nurture talented Americans who can become the future cyber policy leaders, cyber guardians and cyber warriors for United States companies, government agencies, and military services.

Opportunities for students who do well in these competitions range from awards and recognition by political leaders, to internships and scholarships. For example, the U.S. Navy has authorized full, four-year scholarships for high school students who excel in USCC competitions.

Cyber Foundations has two parts: (1) on-line tutorial and video education materials that allow students to expand their knowledge, and (2) quizzes that allow students to demonstrate mastery. Three topics are presented and tested: networking, operating systems, and system administration. Each topic has a separate set of educational materials and a separate test. Teachers may use the materials in class but that is not required.

The three topical areas in the competition are representative of the foundation skills needed by any person hoping to become a skilled cyber professional. In addition, these three skill areas are in high demand throughout industry and government. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics ranked jobs requiring these skills as the second fastest growing in the United States between now and 2018, with 155,000 new jobs opening up. The potential rewards to students who pursue this career path cannot be overemphasized. The Department of Homeland Security is establishing cyber security centers across the country with college partners where curriculum is being developed and research conducted in the area. In addition, the Administration has made national defense from cyber attack one of its highest priorities and is committing substantial resources towards this goal.

To register for the Cyber Foundations Competition visit: http://workforce.cisecurity.org/competitions-camps/cyber-foundations/cffall-2011.cfm. The registration fees are $100 per school or $25 per individual.

50th Annual United States Senate Youth Program

The 50th Annual United States Senate Youth Program, established in 1962 by a United States Senate Resolution, will be held in Washington D.C. from March 3-10, 2012. Two student leaders from each state will spend a week in Washington experiencing their national government in action. Students will visit Capitol Hill, the White House, the Supreme Court, the Pentagon, and the State Department. Each delegate will also be awarded a five thousand dollar ($5,000) college scholarship for undergraduate studies, subject to the conditions and requirements specified in the rules.

Each high school in Michigan is invited to participate. The Hearst Foundation will pay all expenses for the Washington week, including transportation, hotel accommodations, and meals. More program information can be found at www.ussenateyouth.org. To view the 2012 brochure, you can visit www.michigan.gov/socialstudies. The application and qualifying exam can be obtained by contacting Connie McCall at mccallc@michigan.gov or 517-335-2957.

President Obama addressing the 2011 USSY Delegates
Community Eligibility Option

The Michigan Department of Education was pleased to recently announce that Michigan has been selected to be one of the three states to operate the Community Eligibility Option (CEO) for School Year 2011-2012. This unique meals program will provide an alternative to household applications for free and reduced meals in high poverty Local Education Entities (LEA) and is an excellent opportunity for the students in the state of Michigan.

Under the CEO, ALL students in qualifying schools/districts will be able to walk through the serving line and receive a free breakfast AND lunch! This program requires schools to offer breakfast and lunch but will allow individual schools to count and claim meals without the normal free and reduced application process. Schools that participate in CEO will no longer be required to collect Free and Reduced Price School Meals Family Applications. Meals will still need to be counted at Point of Service (POS) but just total meals, not meals by category.

MDE would like to thank the United States Department of Agriculture, United States Senator Debbie Stabenow who was crucial to the piloting of this federal program and all of the LEAs that are currently participating to serve Michigan’s students.

Hit the Trails for Your School!

The Walk for Michigan is the first statewide multi-location fundraiser for Michigan’s public schools. With pockets empty and cuts continuing, there has never been a time of greater need. The Walk for Michigan is an opportunity to show support through physical activity and community involvement throughout the school year.

In addition to championing our state’s schools, this fundraiser will work with student and community organizations to promote community involvement of students, parents, and teachers.

The Prima Civitas Foundation is a Michigan non-profit focused on community and economic development through collaboration and innovation.

We will use our cooperative experience to make the Walk for Michigan an annual fund-raising event that you can count on!

Current Partners:
- Michigan State University
- Michigan Department of Education
- Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance
- Ingham Intermediate School District
- Playmakers

Save the Date!
The Walk for Michigan launches on April 21, 2012

What Happens at The Walk for Michigan?
On April 21st, Michiganders from all walks of life will take a step forward for Michigan schools by organizing or participating in a 5K walk. The Walk for Michigan also empowers students to raise funds for their schools. 500 students raising $100 each could be $50,000 for a school!

Here’s the best part - the walks will occur at a trail/path/park near you!

For more information on how to get involved, please contact: Eleanor Fuchs, Prima Civitas Foundation (517) 708-4245 or e.fuchs@primacivitas.org.
On June 9, 2011, colleagues from across the country gathered in Providence, Rhode Island to honor the significant contributions to early childhood education made by Lindy Buch, Michigan Department of Education’s Director of the Office of Early Childhood Education and Family Services. The “Scholastic Light Award” is given annually to an individual who has impacted policy and increased knowledge about policy for young children, both nationally and at the state level. The recommendation for the award is made by the Executive Committee of the National Association of Early Childhood Specialists in State Departments of Education (NAECS-SDE).

Lindy is a former president of the organization, and continues her leadership by serving on its committees. Her selection was made based not only on this leadership, as she is consistently sought by federal and national organizations and foundations to provide both a theoretical and practical perspective (from a state’s view) regarding policy impacting young children, particularly those in the preschool years, with a particular emphasis on assessment.

“It is amazing to me that across distance and time zones, demographic and cultural differences, and so many other supposed barriers to relationships, that we are so able to be welcoming as colleagues and friends. We do very good work together and that is something I am very proud of. There is no preparation for one of these state policy and administrative jobs, and yet everything we all have done before is preparation.” - from Lindy’s remarks at the Light Award Dinner.

![Dr. Lindy Buch, Director; Richard Lower, Supervisor of Preschool and Early Elementary Programs; and Reneé DeMars-Johnson, Supervisor of Infant/Toddler and Family Services celebrate at the Light Award Dinner given in Lindy’s honor.](image)
Farm to School Grant Program

“Farm to school” applies to a variety of initiatives in Michigan, including efforts to offer local foods in school cafeterias, school garden programs, fundraisers that take advantage of local products, farmer visits to school classrooms and cafeterias, and field trips to nearby farms. Michigan Farm to School is a portal for information and a venue for sharing ideas, tools, and resources to support these and other efforts to link schools with local agriculture in Michigan.

Districts interested in starting or expanding a farm to school program are encouraged to join C.S. Mott Group for Sustainable Food Systems for one of the Michigan Farm to School: Scaling Up and Branching Out regional trainings during the week of October 17th!

This series of afternoon training sessions is being offered through the new Michigan Farm to School Grant Program at [http://www.mifarmtoschool.msu.edu/index.php?id=348](http://www.mifarmtoschool.msu.edu/index.php?id=348), which provides farm to school planning and implementation mini-grants to school food service directors at schools/districts with 50% free and reduced rates or greater. Eight Michigan Farm to School grants were awarded this first, pilot year, and all grantees will attend the training nearest them. This invitation is extend to Michigan school food service directors interested in starting or expanding their farm to school programs!

Michigan Farm to School training dates and locations are as follows:

- **Monday, October 17th, 12:00 - 4:15 pm**
  Grayling Charter Township  
  2090 Viking Way  
  Grayling, MI 49738

- **Wednesday, October 19th, 12:00 - 4:30 pm**
  Kent County Michigan State University Extension Office  
  775 Ball Ave NE  
  Grand Rapids, MI 49503

- **Friday, October 21st, 12:00 – 4:30 pm**
  Livingston County Michigan State University Extension Office  
  2300 E. Grand River Avenue, Suite 111  
  Howell, MI 48843

The first hour of the training will focus on starting farm to school programs and the step-by-step guide to connecting with local farmers and purchasing local products. The remainder will focus on expanding farm to school programs, offering a greater range of products through more avenues. Tools and information from Produce Safety University, a national training offered by the National Food Service Management Institute and the USDA, will also be shared. The agenda is the same for each training, but we hope to draw on the farm to school experiences of attendees.

Please RSVP to Colleen Matts at matt@msu.edu or call 517-432-0310 to reserve your spot for any one of the training opportunities. RSVPs will be taken on a first come first serve basis due to space constraints in a couple of locations.
ON THE HORIZON...

- Near Future

MI Assoc of Teacher Educators 2011 Conf, Oct 21-22, 2011
MASB Annual Fall Conference, Oct 27-30, 2011
MDE/MSBO Workshop, November 2, 2011
MAISA Fall Meetings, November 3-4, 2011
2011 Michigan Joint Social Studies Conference, Nov 4-6, 2011
MSCA / MCA Fall 2011 Conference, November 6-7, 2011

- Distant Future

Michigan Charter School Conference, November 7-8, 2011
State Board of Education Meeting, November 8, 2011
2011 Place-based Education Conference, November 8-9, 2011
Support Staff Conf for Admin Professionals, Nov 17-18
Fall MDE School Improvement Conference, Nov 28-29
MEMSPA State Conference, December 7-9, 2011
MASA Mid-Winter Conference, February 1-3, 2012
2010 MACUL Conference, March 7-9, 2012