Michigan’s federal Race to the Top application for Round Two was signed earlier this month by all three of the required state officials: Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, state Superintendent of Public Instruction Mike Flanagan, and State Board of Education President Kathleen N. Straus. The application has also received the unprecedented endorsements from all of the key education stakeholders.

The second round application’s theme is: Accelerate Michigan, and focuses on improving student achievement and closing the achievement gap.

The State Board of Education unanimously adopted a balanced and bi-partisan plan to reform, restructure and finance Michigan’s education system, from early childhood education to post-secondary.

The State Board now will present the plan to the state Legislature, in accordance with the Board’s state Constitutional responsibility to advise the state Legislature on the financial requirements for Michigan education and higher education.

The plan, Recommendations to Better Support Michigan’s Education System: Revenues, Reforms and Restructuring, is a balance of broad education restructuring initiatives, as well as continued cost reductions and revenue increases.

From State Superintendent Mike Flanagan: Michigan Student’s Scoring a Success

Michigan’s recently released MEAP scores show our schools headed in right direction. These are the results we have been expecting when we established statewide curriculum standards five years ago, and base our tests on those standards. Teachers now have more clarity on the basic standards that students should know and understand, and when they are taught and learned, students can achieve.

These gains were possible because of the bold changes we initiated together. As we continue taking strides to ReImagine education here in Michigan, let’s use this recent success to spotlight what is possible when we put student needs before adult issues, and I can’t thank our teachers enough for their fine work.
The 2010 edition of the *Michigan Directory of Service Providers for Infants, Toddlers, and Students with Disabilities* is now available on the Center for Educational Networking Web site. You can download the complete directory or specific sections in a PDF format at [www.cenmi.org](http://www.cenmi.org).

The directory is intended for parents, educators, and other service providers seeking resource information related to the educational needs of children, students, and clients. The directory contains contact information about resources for children ages birth to three with special needs and their families (Michigan’s Early On® population) and students ages 3-26 with disabilities.

Listings include special education and Early On administrative personnel in local and intermediate school districts (ISDs), specialized schools, and public school academies (charter schools). The directory is not meant to be a comprehensive list of all personnel, but instead provides basic contact information for administrators and others who provide services to infants, toddlers, and students with disabilities.

The directory also contains contact information for the Michigan Department of Education, Michigan Department of Corrections, Michigan Department of Community Health, Michigan Department of Human Services, Michigan local public health departments, neonatal intensive care units, and Michigan and national agencies, associations, and organizations.

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**Clarification**

A number of media outlets have published what they referred to as schools in the “Bottom 5 percent of failing schools.” Even though MDE has informed them that this is not the final list of the “Bottom 5 percent,” there still is a mistaken public perception that it is “the” list.

Here is a quick clarification on this issue from Joseph Martineau, Director, Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA):

In the past few months, much public discussion about education reform has occurred that has included speculation about which schools would fall within the 5% lowest performing schools. A draft list was required in the federal Race to the Top application. That preliminary list was an attachment to Michigan’s Race to the Top application, and thus made public. This list was created from the best information we had at that time as to what the federal government might use to define the “Bottom 5 percent.”

The guidance from the U.S. Department of Education (USDOED) has changed significantly since then and the Michigan Department of Education is working diligently with USDOED to create the criteria that will meet the state legislative requirements and the federal requirements. Once this work is completed and approved by USDOED, a final list will be created and published, along with the criteria used to create the list (as required by state law).

The preliminary draft list referenced by the media which is the focus of this discussion should not be used or considered as the definitive list of affected schools. That list is outdated and inaccurate, based on current statistics and guidance from the federal government.

Questions may be directed to OEAA at 877-560-8378 or oeaa@mi.gov.
Library of Michigan’s MeLCat Celebrates 5 Years of Service to Michigan Residents

The Michigan eLibrary Catalog (MeLCat), the Library of Michigan’s statewide resource sharing system, celebrates its fifth year of service to Michigan residents. MeLCat is a component of the Michigan eLibrary (MeL.org), the state’s anytime, anywhere online library.

Nearly 400 school, public, academic and specialty libraries participate in MeLCat statewide enabling their registered users to initiate requests for books and other library materials from the vast database of 40 million items from any Internet-enabled computer at any time of the day.

Requested materials then are delivered to the individual’s local public, school, or academic specialty library within 2-7 days—much more quickly than traditional interlibrary loan services. Additional libraries from around the state are scheduled to join MeLCat on an ongoing basis.

Michigan was one of the first states in the nation to have a statewide online catalog involving all types of libraries with statewide delivery built in.

The Michigan eLibrary and MeLCat are award winning services. In 2006, MeL.org was honored with a Digital Government Achievement Award in the Government-to-Citizen State Government category by the Center for Digital Government. In 2008, MeLCat was selected as a finalist for the Council of State Government’s Innovations Award.

MeLCat has fulfilled over two million requests to date. Find MeLCat and other excellent resources that are available at no cost to all Michigan residents in the Michigan eLibrary at http://www.mel.org.

ARRA Section 1512 Report Due July 5, 2010

The next American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Section 1512 quarterly report is due July 5, 2010. Section 1512 reporting must be completed quarterly in the Michigan Electronic Grants System (MEGS) for each ARRA grant award received.

The Section 1512 Reporting application will be available in MEGS beginning Monday, June 1, 2010. Complete the report by initiating an amendment to your existing ARRA Section 1512 report.

The reporting period for this quarter’s report is the start date listed on the grant award notification through June 30, 2010. Report Jobs information only for the period April 1, 2010 through June 30, 2010. The next quarterly report will be due October 5, 2010.

It is strongly recommended that you review available guidance documents prior to completing this quarterly report. View guidance documents on the website (http://michigan.gov/mde-grants) or within the MEGS Section 1512 application. (See the “Important Information About the ARRA Section 1512 Report Application” link.)

For any ARRA grant, if all grant activities have been completed and a final expenditure report has been processed, recipients need to check the box within the reporting application to indicate that the grant is complete.

In keeping with the transparency and accountability requirements of the ARRA, Section 1512 reports submitted will be made available on www.recovery.gov and on individual Federal agency recovery websites. Questions regarding this memorandum may be directed to the Grants Administration and Coordination Unit at (517) 373-1806.
Free Energy Program Opportunity

Michigan schools may be eligible for a FREE energy program funded by the State of Michigan! Energy Works Michigan, a non-profit organization, that is administering this exciting program funded by the State of Michigan. The program is designed to save Michigan’s K-12 schools energy and money, enhance educational opportunities for students, and create green collar jobs modernizing our schools.

What Schools Get

- Investment-Grade Energy Audit - a $10,000 value
- Energy Action Plan
- Additional $5,000 Matching Grant Opportunity
- Teacher Professional Development
- Laboratory Kits
- Energy Savings!!!

Program Details: Once accepted to the Energy Efficiency Program, schools will receive an investment-grade energy audit conducted by a licensed Michigan engineer - a $10,000 value. The professional engineering and architectural firms partnered with Energy Works offer independent third-party advice to schools about their buildings. They do not sell equipment or have a contracting business. More than a simple walk-thru audit, these audits provide a detailed engineering analysis of your school that will identify specific cost-effective improvements that could save your school thousands of dollars each year!

With the audit report completed, the Energy Works Team will assist in making an Energy Action Plan for your school that identifies your priorities and develops a time line for achieving savings. Once the Energy Action Plan is complete, a $5,000 cash matching grant is available towards the first $10,000 in energy efficiency improvements!

In addition, participating schools will receive a new energy-focused Curriculum Support Guide and teacher Professional Development. These new lesson plans will cover energy basics, energy efficiency, and renewable energy in a hands-on, inquiry based format. Enhancing the new lessons, participating schools will receive a free Laboratory Kit including interactive equipment for the students, such as: a light meter, a watt meter, a solar panel kit, and a wind turbine model.

To learn more, visit: www.EnergyWorksMichigan.org.

MiDEAL Offers Contract Savings Opportunity

Save both time and money by using contracts that are already competitively bid and negotiated! MiDEAL allows local units of government to benefit from the State of Michigan’s negotiating and purchasing power by permitting them to purchase from the State’s contracts on the same terms, conditions, and prices as State government.

Over 175 contracts, ranging from defibrillators to lawn equipment to food, are available to MiDEAL members. The average savings to MiDEAL members who use these contracts is 25%.

New products and services are being added all the time, including “Green” products.

The annual membership fee for school districts is $180. For the further information and the complete contract list, visit www.michigan.gov/mideal or call Mary Hanses at (517) 335-4364.
Library of Michigan’s Special Collections Manager Wins Prestigious Filby Award

A tireless advocate for genealogists with Michigan ties, the Library of Michigan’s Randy Riley has overseen the digitization and indexing of the 1870 Michigan Census; helped build the Library of Michigan’s family history collection into one of the premier resources of its kind in the United States; and presented hundreds of workshops and programs for librarians, genealogists, and local historians.

Riley, Manager of Special Collections for the Library of Michigan, has been recognized by the National Genealogical Society (NGS) with the 2010 William Filby Award and $1,000 for his significant contributions to the genealogical community.

Established in 1999, the Filby Award is named for the late P. William Filby, former director of the Maryland Historical Society and author of many core genealogical reference tools that genealogists have relied on for decades. It is presented to a librarian at a public, academic, or special library whose full-time primary focus is in genealogy and local history. Recipients meet the following criteria:

- Significant contributions to patron access to information, or to the preservation of historical records.
- Development of an imaginative reference tool or similar outstanding contribution of enduring consequence that fills the gaps in existing information, accuracy, scope or usefulness of genealogical and local history materials.
- Publication of a book or body of articles that have contributed significantly to the field of genealogy or local history and that are of interpretative nature.
- Other activities that have significantly advanced genealogy and local history.
- Work that has encouraged others to be innovative in the field.

The many accomplishments of Riley, a resident of East Lansing, include overseeing the integration of online and paper version of the Cemetery Source Books for the State of Michigan; creation of a genealogical database on the statewide Michigan eLibrary system; and supervision of the digitization, indexing and publishing of some 1 million death certificates for the Seeking Michigan web site. He is editor of the Michigan Genealogist newsletter and serves as advisor to the Michigan Genealogical Council.

The national Filby Award is sponsored by ProQuest since 2006. According to ProQuest Vice President of Publishing, Chris Cowan, “We’re pleased to sponsor the Filby Award, honoring Randy Riley from the Library of Michigan. ProQuest is committed to connecting people to information and promoting the role librarians play in advancing genealogy research. Mr. Riley’s accomplishments during his career exemplify excellence in librarianship in helping family history researchers.”

Founded in 1903, the National Genealogical Society is dedicated to genealogy education, high research standards, and the preservation of genealogical records. The Arlington, VA-based nonprofit is the premier national society for everyone, from the beginner to the most advanced family historian, seeking excellence in publications, educational offerings, research guidance, and opportunities to interact with other genealogists.

The Library of Michigan is part of the Michigan Department of Education. For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan.

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The Library of Michigan is part of the Michigan Department of Education. For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan.
Pennies for Peace

A penny by itself might not seem worthwhile but thousands of pennies are building schools and teaching children to read in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Pennies for Peace is a program founded by Greg Mortenson, author of the best selling book “Three Cups of Tea.” His latest book “Stones into Schools” follows “Three Cups” and recounts his work to establish schools in central Asia. The Pennies for Peace program is designed not only to help foster literacy abroad but also to educate U.S. students about the world.

It all started in 1994 in the small Wisconsin town of River Fall at the Westside Elementary School where Mortenson’s mother had been a principal. Students collected 62,340 pennies -- $623.40 -- to help Mortenson build his first school in Pakistan. That might not seem enough but 1 cent buys a pencil in these countries. Since 1994, more than 16 million pennies -- $160,000 -- has been raised by 700 U.S. schools. That money has built 61 schools and educated 25,000 students, including 14,000 girls.

A Pennies for Peace Toolkit is available to help schools and libraries get started with their own program. It includes a no-cost K-12 curriculum, assessment tools, start-up and reader guides, printable maps, posters, stickers, press releases and videos.

Details about Pennies for Peace can be found at www.penniesforpeace.org.
The Fall 2010 MEAP Assessment Schedule (revised 1-14-2010) is now posted on the MEAP website located at www.michigan.gov/meap. The schedule has been adjusted to allow for the new operational writing test to take place over two days; however, the published beginning and ending dates for the fall 2010 testing window have not changed. The writing test will be administered in grades 4 and 7 only, as in fall 2009.

The new schedule also designates Fridays during the testing window as makeup dates. Schools will NOT need to submit a request to the OEAA to utilize Fridays as makeup test dates. Schools are permitted to administer a grade/subject area test on any makeup test date, provided the initial test date for that subject area has passed. Schools will use the originally assigned test form for makeup testing. No specific makeup test form will be used for fall 2010 MEAP tests.

To view or print the revised MEAP assessment schedule, please visit www.michigan.gov/meap, then click on “MEAP Schedule (Fall 2010 – Fall 2014), Revised 1-14-2010” located in the “What’s New” section of the MEAP website.

If you have questions about MEAP item descriptors or the revised MEAP assessment schedule, please contact the OEAA at 877-560-8378 or email oeaa@michigan.gov.

**MEAP-Access One-Year Delay**

The MEAP-Access assessment was operationally administered for the first time in Fall 2009. Low reliabilities from the first operational administration showed a need for more extensive modification of MEAP items to provide access to the content for the intended participants in MEAP-Access. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has spent considerable energy in planning for the additional modifications to be in place for Fall 2010. It has become clear, after internal discussions and discussions with contractors, that attempting to put the modifications in place could possibly result in insufficiently high reliabilities in 2010 as well.

The decision has been made to delay the next operational administration of MEAP-Access until Fall of 2011. This has been done to assure that the necessary effort and study has been put into the next operational administration of MEAP-Access for its success and the ability to use it for calculating Adequate Yearly Progress going forward.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability at 1-877-560-8378 or oeaa@michigan.gov.

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**Michigan Schools of Character**

Michigan Schools of Character (MSOC) are schools or districts in Michigan that have been honored for their outstanding work in character education and invited to serve as models for other educators in our state. MSOC winners receive an award and are given the opportunity to participate in the National Schools of Character (NSOC) and Promising Practices competition sponsored by the Character Education Partnership (CEP). For more information visit www.character.org.

We are proud to announce the 2010 MSOC Winners:

- **Derby Middle School** - Birmingham, MI
- **Beverly Elementary School** - Beverly Hills, MI
- **Bingham Farms Elementary School** - Bingham Farms, MI
- **The Chatfield School** - Lapeer, MI
ON THE HORIZON...

- Near Future

**Mackinac Policy Conference**, June 2-5, 2010

**State Board of Education Meeting**, June 15, 2010

**MAISA 2010 Summer Conference**, June 16-18, 2010

**Emerging Leaders Program**, June 16-18, 2010

- Distant Future

**MASSP 2010 Summer Retreat**, June 21-23, 2010

**Michigan Joint Education Conference**, June 23, 2010

**Summer Institute for Superintendents**, June 23-25, 2010

**MEMSPA Summer Leadership Institute**, Aug 3-4, 2010

**2010 MCTM Annual Conference**, August 4-5, 2010

**MASB Leadership for Achievement**, Aug 4-6, 2010

**MAASE Summer Institute 2010**, August 8-11, 2010

**MASA 2010 Fall Conference**, September 22-24, 2010

**MAME 37 Annual Conference**, October 28-29, 2010

**MBEA 72nd Annual Convention**, October 28-29, 2010

**2010 Fall School Improvement Conference**, Nov 29-30