



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 11, 2021

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: William A. Pearson, Ed.D., Interim Deputy Superintendent
Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports *WAP*

SUBJECT: Future Proud Michigan Educator Development Grant

Good news! As a continuation of Michigan's efforts to grow and diversify the educator workforce and reduce educator shortages, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is launching the Future Proud Michigan Educator (Future PME) initiative with a competitive grant for school districts to develop programs for students interested in the teaching profession.

This initiative is part of MDE's larger Proud Michigan Educator (PME) campaign that focuses on recognizing and honoring current Michigan educators.

This newest pathway provides an expanded opportunity for students in grades 6-12 to explore education professions. Local education agencies, both traditional public school districts and public school academies, and intermediate school districts are invited to apply for funds of \$10,000 per school to plan for the implementation of Future PME programs. There will be up to 100 grants available.

If we are to rebuild the teaching profession, part of the rebuilding must come from the development of programs like CTE-led teacher cadet programs or future teacher programs at the local level. We need to encourage our young people to consider developing and using their talents as proud Michigan educators.

The Future PME pathways focus on four types of future teachers:

1. Students grades 6-12
2. Individuals working in pre-K-12 schools
3. Career changers
4. Educators transferring licensure from other states

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In the Future PME program, local and intermediate school districts will develop hands-on learning experiences in teaching for students, with supervision and mentoring from educators who are champions of the teaching profession and are committed to the success of the profession.

Future PME programs must be inclusive and equity-focused. Grant activities will support MDE Top 10 strategic education plan goals, including the expansion of secondary learning opportunities for students and the increase in the numbers of certified teachers in areas of shortage. Additionally, educators will be encouraged to create partnerships between K-12 schools and Michigan colleges and universities with approved educator preparation programs.

MDE will provide participating school districts with flexible models for implementation, content standards and curriculum, and free professional development for educators.

Interested applicants are encouraged to review the supporting materials on the [Future PME website](#), including: application requirements, potential program designs, activities supported by this grant, and suggested fund expenditures.

Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. February 16, 2021.

Please direct any questions to MDE's Holly Carruthers at CarruthersH@Michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors