



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 12, 2021

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

FROM: Delsa D. Chapman, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent 
Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports

SUBJECT: Welcome Back Proud Michigan Educator Partnership Districts Needed

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) believes that all students should have access to high-quality teachers. The *Welcome Back Proud Michigan Educator (PME)* campaign is designed to help teachers return to the classroom by allowing districts to apply for a waiver to reduce or eliminate the barrier that professional learning hours may pose to recertification of individuals who

- left the profession, or never entered the profession, but obtained their certification at some point, and
- have not had the opportunity to receive district-provided professional development.

More than 2,200 formerly certificated educators have responded positively with interest in the *Welcome Back PME* campaign.

MDE is seeking districts to receive contact information from more than 900 educators seeking recertification and employment. Currently, only 150 out of more than 800 districts have requested contact information from interested educators.

District administrators interested in receiving contact information from educators who express interest in employment through the *Welcome Back PME* campaign should complete the contact information request form linked [here](#). To employ an eligible educator, the district superintendent must complete the waiver request [application tool](#). This tool is also available to check the eligibility of an individual educator. Districts are encouraged to post the [campaign logo](#) on their employment webpage as a participation indicator to applicants.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

CASANDRA E. ULBRICH – PRESIDENT • PAMELA PUGH – VICE PRESIDENT
TIFFANY D. TILLEY – SECRETARY • TOM MCMILLIN – TREASURER
JUDITH PRITCHETT – NASBE DELEGATE • ELLEN COGEN LIPTON
NIKKI SNYDER • JASON STRAYHORN

608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
www.michigan.gov/mde • 833-633-5788

Page 2
August 12, 2021

“This has been a wonderful program for our district as we have been able to bring back two educators into very hard to fill positions,” said one human resources specialist from a Michigan public school district.

For more information, visit the [Welcome Back PME webpage](#).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors