



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

December 2, 2014

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: All Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents, Public School Academy Administrators, Nonpublic School Administrators, and Michigan Certified Educators

FROM: Mike Flanagan, State Superintendent

SUBJECT: New Process for State Continuing Education Clock Hours

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is pleased to announce that the seat time requirement to demonstrate attendance at State Continuing Education Clock Hour (SCECH) sessions will be streamlined. Beginning immediately, instead of documenting attendance through "sign in/out" or "stamp in/out," the requirement only will require a one-time identification method. That method can be determined by the individual SCECH provider, and might include options such as: picking up a name badge; turning in the SCECH identification form before leaving; or participation in an activity during a professional learning opportunity.

While we recognize that high-quality professional learning does not necessarily result simply from recognized attendance at professional development opportunities, this decision reflects MDE's trust in educators as professionals. We also trust that SCECH providers will facilitate high-quality professional learning opportunities resulting in engaged learners.

The MDE encourages all SCECH program providers and districts offering District Provided Professional Development to incorporate Michigan's Professional Learning

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Policy and Standards when creating and choosing professional learning opportunities. The policy was adopted by the State Board of Education in January 2012, and advocates for educators to engage in professional learning opportunities that:

- are on-going and relevant to their professional practice;
- allow the practices of professional discourse, analysis, application, and reflection; and
- enhance job effectiveness and student growth.

Michigan's Professional Learning Policy and Standards for Professional Learning can be accessed here: [http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-6530\\_30334-342124--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-6530_30334-342124--,00.html).

The Professional Learning Supporting Guidance document can be accessed here: [http://www.mi.gov/documents/mde/MI\\_PL\\_Guidance\\_2012\\_474992\\_7.pdf](http://www.mi.gov/documents/mde/MI_PL_Guidance_2012_474992_7.pdf).

If you have questions regarding the SCECH requirement, please contact Sarah-Kate LaVan at [LavanS@michigan.gov](mailto:LavanS@michigan.gov) or 517-335-0974. If you have questions about Michigan's Professional Learning Policy, please contact Stephen Best at [BestS1@michigan.gov](mailto:BestS1@michigan.gov) or 517-241-4553.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance