May 1, 2020

Dear Michigan Teachers,

Greetings! Teacher Appreciation Month and the specifically designated Teacher Appreciation Week of May 4-8 are opportunities to thank all teachers who currently motivate, inspire, and nurture our young people, as well as opportunities to appreciate those on whose shoulders we stand as educators: our teachers from our childhoods.

This recognition is particularly important at this moment as the current public health crisis has required our students and educators to leave classrooms and schools and transition to learning at a distance. This is a tremendous challenge for everyone as we stay home and stay safe, yet continue to teach and care for the children of Michigan. I am inspired by the creativity, flexibility, commitment and devotion that you have to our students and our profession in these extraordinary times.

We at the Michigan Department of Education and on the State Board of Education would like to express our deepest gratitude for your outstanding contributions to our students and our profession.

During this pandemic, when children were uprooted from their normal school year, it is you who provided them with some measure of stability, trust, and confidence. When our students look back on this period years from now, they will remember those of us who stood tall in their lives during this challenging period. You will be those teachers for our students.

In partnership,

Michael F. Rice, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Public Instruction