



Press Release

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MDE Offers Grants to Support the Development of Future Proud Michigan Educators

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LANSING – 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.

The newest component for K-12 students provides an expanded opportunity for students in grades 6-12 to explore education professions. MDE will provide participating school districts with flexible models for implementation, content standards and curriculum, and free professional development for educators.

“We need to encourage our young people to consider developing and using their talents as proud Michigan educators,” said State Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice.

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

Local school districts and intermediate school districts are invited to apply for funds to begin building Future PME programs. Grants of \$10,000 per school are available for teams to plan for the implementation of Future PME programs. There are up to 100 grants available.

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.

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 February 16, 2021. School districts are asked to please direct their questions to Holly Carruthers at CarruthersH@Michigan.gov.

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