



**Public invited to participate in Aug. 26 web chat
about proposed reforms to Michigan’s educator evaluation system**
Panel will answer questions about Michigan Council for Educator Effectiveness plan

LANSING – Parents of schoolchildren and other members of the public are invited to participate in an Aug. 26 web chat to learn more about a plan to create a statewide system for evaluating the performance of teachers and administrators in all Michigan school districts.

Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions about the proposal submitted in July to Gov. Rick Snyder, the Michigan Legislature and the State Board of Education by the Michigan Council for Educator Effectiveness (MCEE).

The Detroit Free Press will host the web chat, which will run from noon to 1 p.m. Free Press education reporter Lori Higgins will moderate the event. Details on how to join the chat will be forthcoming.

Participating in the forum will be Deborah Loewenberg Ball, MCEE chair and dean of the University of Michigan School of Education; Steve Cook, president of the Michigan Education Association; David Hecker, president of the American Federation of Teachers-Michigan; and Joseph Martineau, a nonvoting member of the MCEE and the Michigan Department of Education’s deputy superintendent for accountability services.

“We understand that there is intense public interest in the professional development of Michigan’s educators, and the web chat is part of the MCEE’s commitment to keeping the process for creating an evaluation system as open and transparent as possible,” said Ball.

The MCEE – an independent commission of education experts created by Snyder and the Legislature as part of the state’s 2011 teacher tenure reform efforts – worked for 18 months to produce educator evaluation recommendations that would mark a major shift for Michigan’s public and charter schools.

Legislative hearings will begin September 11 with a joint education committee hearing to review the MCEE report and study potential costs. The new evaluation system, if approved by the Legislature, would require all Michigan schools to have an educator evaluation system in place by 2015-16.

Michigan’s new system would base half of teacher evaluations on classroom practice and the other half on student growth as determined by scores on standardized tests, student learning objectives and other locally determined measures. Historically, Michigan’s educator evaluation standards have not measured student growth.

Under the MCEE plan, teachers and school administrators – including superintendents, principals and assistant principals – would be rated “professional,” “provisional” or “ineffective.” The evaluations would give personalized feedback, and evaluators would provide guidance for improvement. Classroom evaluators would be trained through a consistent statewide program. Teachers and administrators rated ineffective for two consecutive years would face dismissal from their positions.

In-depth information about the council’s work is available at the MCEE website: www.mcede.org.

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