



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

April 12, 2106

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Students who learn in positive learning environments that are safe, supportive, and engaging are more likely to improve academically, participate more fully in the classroom, and develop skills that will help them be successful in school and in life.

Making improvement to the school learning environment through research based practices such as Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, and other differentiated behavioral support practices, can also lead to a reduction in suspension and expulsion as well as a reduced need for the emergency use of seclusion and restraint. The priority above all when addressing the unique needs of all children is to protect the dignity and safety of each student as well as school personnel.

The State Board of Education and Superintendent Brian Whiston's vision of making Michigan a Top 10 state in education in the next 10 years and the goals and strategies identified through significant stakeholder input, are powerfully aligned with the priorities of the task force. Michigan schools are faced with multiple challenges. With the support of the Lt. Governor and the Executive Office, schools in Michigan will have an opportunity to engage in a process that enables the alignment of board policy, student codes of conduct and the development of proactive strategies designed to positively impact the culture of learning in schools across our state.

The Michigan Department of Education and the Office of Special Education, appreciates the commitment of Lt. Governor Calley to the disabilities community and to improving the educational experience for all students by supporting meaningful change to improve our educational systems.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Teri L. Chapman".

Teri L. Chapman, Ed.S., Director  
Office of Special Education

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