



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 14, 2020

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Kyle L. Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent *KG*
Finance and Operations

SUBJECT: MI Safety & Drill Planning Considerations for the 2020-2021 School Year
- MEMO #COVID-19-127

In Michigan last year, there was a total of 103 fires in K-12 schools. As many school districts have re-begun classes in person, there are new students and teachers in every school and those returning have been away from the classroom for an extended amount of time. This year, as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Michigan schools are facing the difficult challenge of finding ways that allow teachers and students to return to the classroom while observing both social distancing and increased sanitation requirements, and continuing to provide a quality education for students. For these reasons, it is important to conduct regulated safety drills and follow the requirements set forth in law. The MI Safety & Drill Planning guidance for the 2020-2021 school year can be found at https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/MI_Safety_Drill_Guidance_Document_Final_704924_7.pdf.

This guidance differentiates for schools educating at a distance, in-person, and in a hybrid. This guidance on drills and other safety considerations is a collaboration among the bureau of fire services, the State Fire Marshal in the Michigan Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA), and the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) to assist school administrators and staff in providing a safe learning environment.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the bureau of fire services at lara-bfs@michigan.gov or 517-388-1761; or contact Mary Teachout at MDE at TeachoutM@Michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors

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