

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Michigan Department of Education will conduct two public hearings to receive public comments on the **Michigan School Accreditation and Accountability System (MI-SAAS)**. In June 2009, the State Board of Education approved the "Michigan School Accreditation System" (MI-SAS) as the state's new accreditation system to provide a means of setting standards for continuous school improvement. Since that time, the United States Department of Education (USED) provided guidelines for identifying persistently low achieving schools and School Improvement Grant funds to support significant reform to improve student achievement in those schools. In addition, state education reform legislation was passed creating a School Reform Office for persistently low achieving schools. In order to align the MI-SAS with the new federal accountability measures and state reform legislation, the system was renamed to the "Michigan School Accreditation and Accountability System" (MI-SAAS) and the following changes were recommended to the State Board:

1. Schools in the lowest 5% in the state ranking are automatically unaccredited.
2. Schools in the lowest 6-20% in the state ranking are automatically interim accredited.
3. Schools in the lowest 5% for the School Improvement Grant or School Reform Office are automatically unaccredited.
4. To be fully accredited, schools must assess at least 95% of students in every tested subject.

These revisions to the state accreditation system are available for public comment at public hearings as described in MCL 380.1280.

MI-SAAS is available for review on the Internet at:

http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-22709_52634---,00.html

MI-SAAS is expected to take effect in the 2010-11 school year.

Public hearings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations:

September 2, 2010 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Livingston Education Services Agency McGuffey – C Room 1425 West Grand River Howell, MI 48843	September 2, 2010 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Library of Michigan – Forum 717 West Allegan Street Lansing, MI 48933
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Oral or written comments may be presented in person, at a hearing, or submitted in writing by mail, email or fax no later than 5:00 p.m., September 2, 2010. All comments will be reviewed and considered. Comments may be submitted to the following:

Public Comment
Office of Educational Accountability and Assessment
Michigan Department of Education
P.O. Box 30008
Lansing, MI 48909
E-mail: mde-accreditation@michigan.gov
Fax: 517/335-1186

If special accommodations are needed to participate in a public hearing, contact Deborah Clemmons at 517/241-2479 or email to clemmons@michigan.gov by August 27, 2010.