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Joint Statement

Statement From MAISA, MASA, MASB, MASSP, MSBO State Testing Mandate Waiver from the USDOE

LANSING, MI, March 17, 2020 – Earlier today State Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice and State Board of Education President Dr. Casandra Ulbrich wrote to Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos to say that federally mandated state testing should be waived this year in favor of focusing on the more immediate needs of children. In response to this communication, the executive directors of Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators, Michigan Association of Superintendents and Administrators, Michigan Association of School Boards, Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals, and Michigan School Business Officials issued the following statement:

“Our organizations stand in support of the State Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice, the Michigan Department of Education, and the State Board of Education in their urge for a nationwide waiver of statewide student assessments.

This unprecedented event has caused our students to be out of school for three plus weeks – an undesirable, but necessary situation – which will create a need for our students to re-acclimate with school and their usual routines.

To ask schools to immediately return to state assessments would be unfair to our students and our educators. Due to the loss of instructional time, any state summative assessment results would not be an accurate reflection of our students’ learning. By waiving the assessment mandate, the U.S. Department of Education would be giving Michigan educators the chance to put students and their immediate needs first upon the return to school.”

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