



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

February 28, 2022

Mrs. Nicole Wells-Stallworth, Board President
MacDowell Preparatory Academy
4201 West Outer Drive
Detroit, Michigan 48221

Dear Mrs. Wells-Stallworth:

This letter serves as the official notification that the employment of Mr. Brian Banks by the MacDowell Preparatory Academy may be in violation of the State School Aid Act ([MCL 388.1763](#)).

The State School Aid Act states that a district that employs an educator who is not appropriately placed with a valid Michigan credential (i.e., a certificate, permit, authorization, or approval that corresponds to the subject areas and grade levels to which they are assigned) is subject to a State Aid deduction.

Effective July 1, 2021, amendments to MCL 388.1763, require the Michigan Department of Education to issue a State Aid deduction to any district employing an individual in violation of this section in the following manner:

1. 50% of the educator's salary for the initial period of non-compliance.
2. If the district continues to employ the individual in violation of this section 10 calendar days after the date of this notification, any subsequent days of employment will increase to a 100% deduction of the individual's salary.

On Friday, March 4, 2022, you will receive an email containing an electronic survey tool for the identified educator that must be completed by **Friday, March 25, 2022**. The email will be generated from our Qualtrics automated information intake system. Please check your school or district's IT settings to allow emails from gcorp@gemailserver.com. Since this investigation is to be completed in a confidential and independent manner, please ensure that the person whose certification is under investigation is not the same person that completes the Qualtrics survey that will be sent to you.

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The following materials are provided for your reference in support of this correspondence:

- [Public Credential Search](#)
- [School Administrator Credentials and Placement](#)
- [Certificate Guidance](#)
- [Permits and Placement](#)

If you do not receive your survey on Friday, March 4, 2022, or have questions regarding this investigation, please contact Katie Schmiedeknecht via email at SchmiedeknechtK@michigan.gov or at 517-335-1151.

Sincerely,

Katie Schmiedeknecht

Katie Schmiedeknecht, Analyst
Data and Accountability Unit
Office of Educator Excellence
Michigan Department of Education