

[Date]

Dear Parent,

The Michigan Legislature took action in 2013 to expand student access to digital learning options through Section 21f of the State School Aid Act. As a result, students enrolled in a public local district or public school academy in grades 6-12 are eligible to enroll in up to two online courses during an academic term – or more if parents, students, and school leadership agree that more than two are in the best interest of the child. Michigan is the seventh state in the U.S. to enable statewide choice at the course level through online learning options.

Online learning holds great promise as an instructional approach to expand and customize learning opportunities for students. However, it is substantially different from face-to-face instruction and usually works best when thoughtful planning supports individual enrollment decisions. I encourage you to talk with your student to examine if online learning is a good fit for her or him.

To help you prepare for making the decision about whether your student has the characteristics to be successful learning online, we recommend you review the *Parent Guide to Online Learning* at http://media.mivu.org/institute/pdf/parent_guide_2013.pdf. The Guide examines how online learning supports next generation learning models, poses practical planning questions, provides a preparation checklist, offers advice for parents, and includes an online learner readiness rubric. This guide will help you prepare for a conversation with your son or daughter.

Students may select online courses from our local district catalog [website address], or from the statewide catalog of online course titles available at <https://micourses.org/>. We are developing guidelines and procedures to accommodate student/parent requests to take online courses. We are excited about this opportunity, but equally cautious given the amount of media hype and misperceptions associated with online learning, especially from students.

Please direct your questions related to online courses to Mr./Ms. _____. He/she will be able to explain the process being used by [School Name] to implement the new polices that expand online learning options for students.

Sincerely,

[Name], [Title]
[School Name]