

## VISION OF UNIVERSAL EDUCATION

Every individual's success is important to our society. Each person deserves and needs a concerned, accepting educational community that values diversity and provides a comprehensive system of individual supports from birth to adulthood. Universal Education removes barriers, provides flexible and responsive supports and facilitates life-long learning for all.

The principles of Universal Education reflect the beliefs that in order to support the learning of all in achieving desired educational outcomes, there must be:

- ✦ A learning community...
- ✦ A learning environment (culture; resources)...
- ✦ Adult and student learning...

Learners in all of their diversity come from a variety of backgrounds and life situations that may pose barriers to their access to, experience with, and progress in public education. The following graphic identifies some of those factors affecting today's learners from birth to adulthood.



\* **Youth in transition** are young people in temporary placements (i.e., awaiting foster care placement or institutional placement, staying temporarily with friends or relatives).

## PRINCIPLES OF UNIVERSAL EDUCATION

### ***WHO: The learning community***

#### ***Universal Education...***

- ✦ Builds a community that values diversity among all stakeholders and students, birth through adulthood.
- ✦ Engages broad-based working partnerships in removing all barriers that interfere, impede and / or prohibit access to the full range of learning opportunities.
- ✦ Recognizes and supports the critical, essential role that families/primary caregivers, in all of their diversity, play in the development and education of their children.
- ✦ Necessitates involvement of a broad-base of stakeholders that influence public policy and practice:
  - State Board of Education
  - Parent /teacher/student groups
  - Advocacy groups and organizations
  - Educational organizations and associations
  - Teacher training and preservice institutions
  - Legislature
  - Executive branch of government
  - Corrections/juvenile justice system
  - Human service system
  - Business and community organizations
  - Other stakeholders

### ***WHAT: The learning environment (culture and resources)...***

#### ***The learning culture...***

#### ***Universal Education...***

- ✦ Creates a safe and accepting learning environment in partnership with families and community characterized by mutual support, respect, and responsibility.
- ✦ Is guided by a commitment to educational excellence, democracy and social justice (equity) to create a sense of belonging.
- ✦ Honors the rights of all students to learn together.
- ✦ Supports and facilitates learning for all from birth through adulthood, including those who may be disenfranchised or marginalized, inhibiting in some way their achievement of individual education outcomes.

#### ***Learning resources...***

#### ***Universal Education...***

- ✦ Assures access to resources and provides support for teachers and students.
- ✦ Provides resources to create flexible instruction and learning environments designed for all learners, building on strengths, needs and interests.
- ✦ Supports policies and practices to prevent learning problems stemming from physical, environmental, social, and emotional factors.
- ✦ Promotes leadership among stakeholder groups that guides continuous instructional improvement.

### ***HOW: Adult and student learning...***

#### ***Universal Education...***

- ✦ Ensures effective educator pre-service and on-going professional development.
- ✦ Implements effective, instructional practices, which align with individual learning styles, interests, and strengths moving the student from the edge of competence forward.
- ✦ Uses student performance and growth data to design, implement, evaluate, and adjust instruction, school environment and professional development.
- ✦ Ensures that students will be assessed based on growth in addition to broad, standardized tests or benchmarks of achievement.

**Matrix of Selected Federal Statutes &/or Regulations**  
Universal Education Referent Group (1/27/04)

| <p><i>Notes:</i><br/><b>X = the population that has initial access to eligibility for services or protections under this law</b></p> <p>Shaded rows = clusters used in working definition of “learners”</p> <p>White rows = examples</p> | Title I, Part A: Basic Programs | Title I, Part C: Migratory Children | Title I, Part D: Neglected/Delinquent/At-Risk | Title I, Part G: Advanced Placement | Title III: Language Instruction for LEP/Immig. | Title V, Section D, Subpart 6: Gifted & Talented | Title VI, Part B, Subpart 2: Rural Education | Title VII, Part A: Indian Education | Title VII-B: Native Hawaiian Education | Title VII, Part C: Alaska Native Education | Title X, McKinney-Vento | IDEA | Section 504 | Technology IDEA | ADA | Title IX: Discrimination Based on Sex/Blindness |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------|------|-------------|-----------------|-----|-------------------------------------------------|
| Pregnant / Parenting Teens                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                 |                                     |                                               |                                     |                                                |                                                  |                                              |                                     |                                        |                                            |                         |      |             |                 |     |                                                 |
| Mental Health Issues                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                 |                                     |                                               |                                     |                                                |                                                  |                                              |                                     |                                        |                                            |                         |      |             |                 |     |                                                 |
| Abused children                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                 |                                     |                                               |                                     |                                                |                                                  |                                              |                                     |                                        |                                            |                         |      |             |                 |     |                                                 |
| Limited English Profic.                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                 |                                     |                                               |                                     | X                                              |                                                  |                                              |                                     |                                        |                                            |                         |      |             |                 |     |                                                 |
| Health Issues                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                 |                                     |                                               |                                     |                                                |                                                  |                                              |                                     |                                        |                                            |                         |      |             |                 |     |                                                 |
| Asthmatic                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                 |                                     |                                               |                                     |                                                |                                                  |                                              |                                     |                                        |                                            |                         |      |             |                 |     |                                                 |
| Diabetic                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                 |                                     |                                               |                                     |                                                |                                                  |                                              |                                     |                                        |                                            |                         |      |             |                 |     |                                                 |
| HIV positive                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                 |                                     |                                               |                                     |                                                |                                                  |                                              |                                     |                                        |                                            |                         |      |             |                 |     |                                                 |
| Lead Poisoning                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                 |                                     |                                               |                                     |                                                |                                                  |                                              |                                     |                                        |                                            |                         |      |             |                 |     |                                                 |
| Drug involved / Addicted                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                 |                                     |                                               |                                     |                                                |                                                  |                                              |                                     |                                        |                                            |                         |      |             |                 |     |                                                 |
| Disability                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                 |                                     |                                               |                                     |                                                |                                                  |                                              |                                     |                                        |                                            |                         | X    | X           | X               | X   | X                                               |
| Court Systems Involved                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                 |                                     |                                               |                                     |                                                |                                                  |                                              |                                     |                                        |                                            |                         |      |             |                 |     |                                                 |
| Delinquent                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                 |                                     | X                                             |                                     |                                                |                                                  |                                              |                                     |                                        |                                            |                         |      |             |                 |     |                                                 |
| Adjudicated youth                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                 |                                     | X                                             |                                     |                                                |                                                  |                                              |                                     |                                        |                                            |                         |      |             |                 |     |                                                 |
| Foster children                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                 |                                     |                                               |                                     |                                                |                                                  |                                              |                                     |                                        |                                            |                         |      |             |                 |     |                                                 |
| Racial Ethnic Minorities                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                 |                                     |                                               |                                     |                                                |                                                  |                                              |                                     |                                        |                                            |                         |      |             |                 |     |                                                 |
| Immigrants                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                 |                                     |                                               |                                     |                                                |                                                  |                                              |                                     |                                        |                                            |                         |      |             |                 |     |                                                 |
| Ethnic minorities                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                 |                                     |                                               |                                     |                                                |                                                  |                                              |                                     | X                                      | X                                          |                         |      |             |                 |     |                                                 |
| Migrant students                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                 | X                                   |                                               |                                     |                                                |                                                  |                                              |                                     |                                        |                                            |                         |      |             |                 |     |                                                 |
| Native Americans                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                 |                                     |                                               |                                     |                                                |                                                  |                                              | X                                   |                                        |                                            |                         |      |             |                 |     |                                                 |
| Refugees                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                 |                                     |                                               |                                     |                                                |                                                  |                                              |                                     |                                        |                                            |                         |      |             |                 |     |                                                 |
| Overseas Adoptions                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                 |                                     |                                               |                                     |                                                |                                                  |                                              |                                     |                                        |                                            |                         |      |             |                 |     |                                                 |
| Religion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                 |                                     |                                               |                                     |                                                |                                                  |                                              |                                     |                                        |                                            |                         |      |             |                 |     |                                                 |
| Gender                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                 |                                     |                                               |                                     |                                                |                                                  |                                              |                                     |                                        |                                            |                         |      |             |                 |     | X                                               |
| Sexual Orientation Attraction                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                 |                                     |                                               |                                     |                                                |                                                  |                                              |                                     |                                        |                                            |                         |      |             |                 |     |                                                 |
| GLBTQ <sup>1</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                 |                                     |                                               |                                     |                                                |                                                  |                                              |                                     |                                        |                                            |                         |      |             |                 |     |                                                 |
| Homeless                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                 |                                     |                                               |                                     |                                                |                                                  |                                              |                                     |                                        |                                            | X                       |      |             |                 |     |                                                 |
| Unaccompanied youth                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                 |                                     |                                               |                                     |                                                |                                                  |                                              |                                     |                                        |                                            |                         |      |             |                 |     |                                                 |
| At risk for drop out; truant                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                 |                                     |                                               |                                     |                                                |                                                  |                                              |                                     |                                        |                                            |                         |      |             |                 |     |                                                 |
| Emancipated minors                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                 |                                     |                                               |                                     |                                                |                                                  |                                              |                                     |                                        |                                            |                         |      |             |                 |     |                                                 |
| Advanced & accelerated                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                 |                                     |                                               | X                                   |                                                | X                                                |                                              |                                     |                                        |                                            |                         |      |             |                 |     |                                                 |
| High poverty                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | X                               |                                     |                                               |                                     |                                                |                                                  | X                                            |                                     |                                        |                                            |                         |      |             |                 |     |                                                 |
| Transitional                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                 |                                     |                                               |                                     |                                                |                                                  |                                              |                                     |                                        |                                            |                         |      |             |                 |     |                                                 |
| Suspended / expelled                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                 |                                     |                                               |                                     |                                                |                                                  |                                              |                                     |                                        |                                            |                         |      |             |                 |     |                                                 |
| Runaway                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                 |                                     |                                               |                                     |                                                |                                                  |                                              |                                     |                                        |                                            |                         |      |             |                 |     |                                                 |
| Early Childhood                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                 |                                     |                                               |                                     |                                                |                                                  |                                              |                                     |                                        |                                            |                         |      |             |                 |     |                                                 |
| Other                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                 |                                     |                                               |                                     |                                                |                                                  |                                              |                                     |                                        |                                            |                         |      |             |                 |     |                                                 |

<sup>1</sup> GLBTQ = Gay / Lesbian / Bi-sexual / Transgender / Questioning

**Matrix of Selected State Statutes &/or Regulations**  
Universal Education Referent Group (1/27/04)

| <p><i>Notes:</i><br/><b>X = the population that has initial access to eligibility for services or protections under this law</b></p> <p>Shaded rows = clusters used in working definition of “learners”</p> <p>White rows = examples</p> | MI State School Aid Act, Section 31a: At-Risk | Education for the Gifted and Talented | Persons with Disabilities Civil Rights Act | Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act | School Code | State School Aid Act | Public Health Code | Critical Health Problems Education Act | MSD/B | MSD | MSB | Federal and State Aid to Vocational Education | Rehabilitation Act of 1964 | Youth Employment Standards | Administrative Rules for Special Education |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------------|-------|-----|-----|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--|
| Pregnant / Parenting Teens                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                               |                                       |                                            |                                 | X           |                      |                    |                                        |       |     |     |                                               |                            |                            |                                            |  |
| Mental Health Issues                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                               |                                       |                                            |                                 |             |                      |                    |                                        |       |     |     |                                               |                            |                            |                                            |  |
| Abused children                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                               |                                       |                                            |                                 |             |                      |                    |                                        |       |     |     |                                               |                            |                            |                                            |  |
| Limited English Proficiency                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                               |                                       |                                            |                                 |             |                      |                    |                                        |       |     |     |                                               |                            |                            |                                            |  |
| Health Issues                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                               |                                       |                                            |                                 |             |                      |                    |                                        |       |     |     |                                               |                            |                            |                                            |  |
| Asthmatic                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                               |                                       |                                            |                                 | X           |                      |                    |                                        |       |     |     |                                               |                            |                            |                                            |  |
| Diabetic                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                               |                                       |                                            |                                 |             |                      |                    |                                        |       |     |     |                                               |                            |                            |                                            |  |
| HIV positive                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                               |                                       |                                            |                                 |             |                      | X                  |                                        |       |     |     |                                               |                            |                            |                                            |  |
| Lead Poisoning                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                               |                                       |                                            |                                 |             |                      |                    |                                        |       |     |     |                                               |                            |                            |                                            |  |
| Drug involved / Addicted                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                               |                                       |                                            |                                 |             |                      |                    |                                        |       |     |     |                                               |                            |                            |                                            |  |
| Disability                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                               |                                       | X                                          |                                 | X           |                      |                    |                                        | X     | X   | X   |                                               | X                          |                            | X                                          |  |
| Court Systems Involved                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                               |                                       |                                            |                                 |             |                      |                    |                                        |       |     |     |                                               |                            |                            |                                            |  |
| Delinquent                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                               |                                       |                                            |                                 |             |                      |                    |                                        |       |     |     |                                               |                            |                            |                                            |  |
| Adjudicated youth                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                               |                                       |                                            |                                 |             |                      |                    |                                        |       |     |     |                                               |                            |                            |                                            |  |
| Foster children                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                               |                                       |                                            |                                 |             |                      |                    |                                        |       |     |     |                                               |                            |                            |                                            |  |
| Racial Ethnic Minorities                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                               |                                       |                                            | X                               |             |                      |                    |                                        |       |     |     |                                               |                            |                            |                                            |  |
| Immigrants                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                               |                                       |                                            | X                               |             |                      |                    |                                        |       |     |     |                                               |                            |                            |                                            |  |
| Ethnic minorities                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                               |                                       |                                            | X                               |             |                      |                    |                                        |       |     |     |                                               |                            |                            |                                            |  |
| Migrant students                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                               |                                       |                                            |                                 |             |                      |                    |                                        |       |     |     |                                               |                            |                            |                                            |  |
| Native Americans                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                               |                                       |                                            |                                 |             |                      |                    |                                        |       |     |     |                                               |                            |                            |                                            |  |
| Refugees                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                               |                                       |                                            |                                 |             |                      |                    |                                        |       |     |     |                                               |                            |                            |                                            |  |
| Overseas Adoptions                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                               |                                       |                                            | X                               |             |                      |                    |                                        |       |     |     |                                               |                            |                            |                                            |  |
| Religion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                               |                                       |                                            | X                               |             |                      |                    |                                        |       |     |     |                                               |                            |                            |                                            |  |
| Gender                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                               |                                       |                                            |                                 |             |                      |                    |                                        |       |     |     |                                               |                            |                            |                                            |  |
| Sexual Orientation Attraction                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                               |                                       |                                            |                                 |             |                      |                    |                                        |       |     |     |                                               |                            |                            |                                            |  |
| GLBTQ <sup>2</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                               |                                       |                                            |                                 |             |                      |                    |                                        |       |     |     |                                               |                            |                            |                                            |  |
| Homeless                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                               |                                       |                                            |                                 |             |                      |                    |                                        |       |     |     |                                               |                            |                            |                                            |  |
| Unaccompanied youth                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                               |                                       |                                            |                                 |             |                      |                    |                                        |       |     |     |                                               |                            |                            |                                            |  |
| At risk for drop out; truant                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                               |                                       |                                            |                                 |             |                      |                    |                                        |       |     |     |                                               |                            |                            |                                            |  |
| Emancipated minors                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                               |                                       |                                            |                                 |             |                      |                    |                                        |       |     |     |                                               |                            |                            |                                            |  |
| Advanced & accelerated                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                               | X                                     |                                            |                                 |             |                      |                    |                                        |       |     |     |                                               |                            |                            |                                            |  |
| High poverty                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | X                                             |                                       |                                            |                                 |             |                      |                    |                                        |       |     |     |                                               |                            |                            |                                            |  |
| Transitional                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                               |                                       |                                            |                                 |             |                      |                    |                                        |       |     |     |                                               |                            |                            |                                            |  |
| Suspended / expelled                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                               |                                       |                                            |                                 | X           |                      |                    |                                        |       |     |     |                                               |                            |                            |                                            |  |
| Runaway                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                               |                                       |                                            |                                 |             |                      |                    |                                        |       |     |     |                                               |                            |                            |                                            |  |
| Early Childhood                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                               |                                       |                                            |                                 |             |                      |                    |                                        |       |     |     |                                               |                            |                            |                                            |  |
| Other                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                               |                                       |                                            |                                 |             |                      |                    |                                        |       |     |     |                                               |                            |                            |                                            |  |

<sup>2</sup> GLBTQ = Gay / Lesbian / Bi-sexual / Transgender / Questioning