

# Policy, Criteria, and Procedures for Early Childhood Special Education Teacher Approval

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Full Approval

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Michigan Department of Education  
Office of Special Education

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# Procedures and Policy for Early Childhood Special Education Teacher Approval

Early childhood special education teachers must meet the criteria below and in the *Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education (MARSE)*.

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## Policy and Criteria

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### **Full Approval Policy and Criteria**

1. The candidate must possess a valid Michigan teaching certificate with an endorsement in at least one area of special education and a major or minor in early childhood education or child growth and development.
2. An employer can request approval for an Early Childhood Special Education teacher if the candidate has a major or minor in early childhood education or child growth and development and has an endorsement in an area of special education. (Candidates who have a ZA or ZS endorsement with a special education endorsement do not need this approval.)
3. Programs may be titled as something other than "Early Childhood Special Education." However, if more than half of the students in the program are younger than six years old, the teacher must have an Early Childhood Special Education approval.
4. A request for full approval must be received by the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education (MDE, OSE) during the school year (July 1 to June 30) in which the effective date applies.
5. Early Childhood Special Education Teacher approval is granted from the beginning of the school year in which it is requested or the date that all requirements for the approval are met, whichever is later.
6. Early Childhood Special Education Teacher approval does not expire as long as the teacher maintains a valid Michigan teaching certificate. Approval is transferable from one school district to the next.

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## Michigan Education Information System (MEIS) Requirements

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The Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education (MDE, OSE) uses the Michigan Online Educator Certification System (MOECS) to process special education personnel approvals.

Before logging in to the MOECS, requesting districts must have both of the following:

- A MEIS account. To create a MEIS account, visit the [Create a New MEIS Account page](https://mdoe.state.mi.us/meis/createnewaccount.aspx) (mdoe.state.mi.us/meis/createnewaccount.aspx).
- A completed and approved MEIS security agreement. Complete the applicable agreement below.
  - [School District Security Agreement Form to Access Approvals \[PDF\]](#)
  - [Public School Academy Security Agreement Form to Access Approvals \[PDF\]](#)
  - [Teacher Preparation Institution Security Agreement Form to Access Approvals \[PDF\]](#)

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## Michigan Online Educator Certification System (MOECS) Access

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After obtaining a Michigan Education Information System (MEIS) account and approved security agreement, access the MOECS in one of two ways:

- Visit the [MOECS website](https://mdoe.state.mi.us/moecs/login.aspx) (mdoe.state.mi.us/moecs/login.aspx) directly.
- Access the MOECS via the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education (MDE, OSE) website.
  - Visit the [MDE, OSE website](https://michigan.gov/specialeducation) (michigan.gov/specialeducation).
  - Scroll down below "Special Education" from the left-hand menu of the page and choose **Special Education Personnel Approvals** (Figure 1).
  - Choose **Michigan Online Educator Certification System (MOECS)** underneath "Approvals Online System."

**NOTE:** Each candidate must have a Personal Identification Code (PIC).

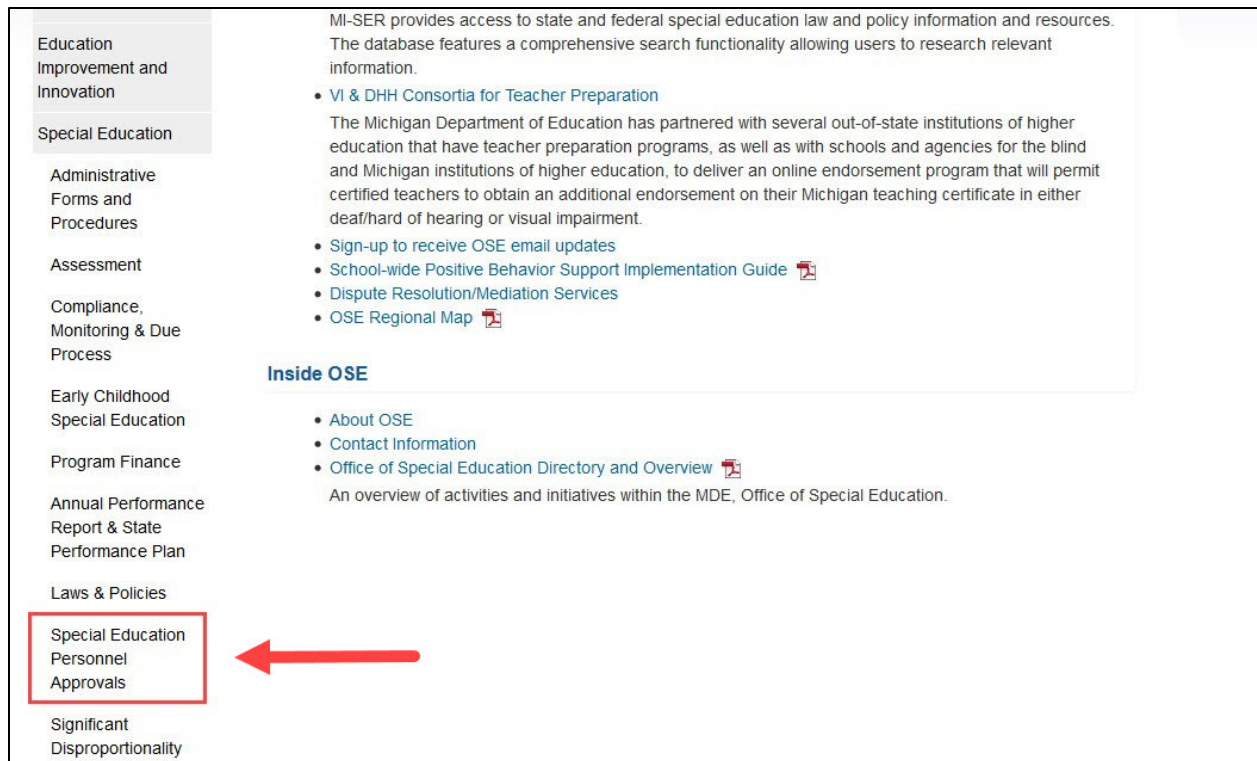


Figure 1. Special Education Personnel Approvals menu item on the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education website.

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## Intermediate School Districts Requesting Approval

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Follow the steps below in the order they appear.

### Step 1 for ISD: Initiate and Approve the Request

- Initiate the request by logging in to the MOECS.
- Select **Apply/Process Approval** from the left-hand menu (Figure 2).
- Enter the candidate's PIC. Select the **Teacher** category from the drop-down menu.
  - Choose the **Full Approval for Early Childhood Special Education** approval type.
  - Click **Next**.
- Complete all applicable information, including the appropriate district, approval program category, and effective date (date of hire).
  - Review and check the assurance and validation statements.
  - Type the name as it appears to the right of the electronic signature box.
  - Click **Submit**. The application is now approved, and the ISD will receive an email confirmation.

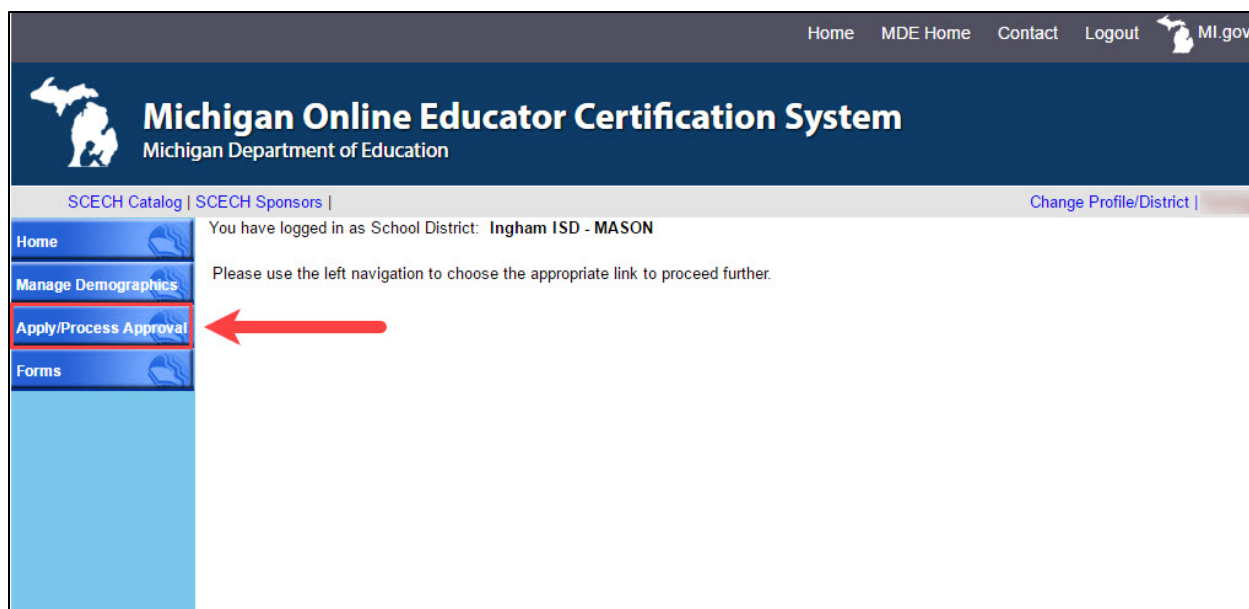


Figure 2. Apply/Process Approval menu item on the MOECS home page for the intermediate school district.

## Step 2 for ISD: Download the Approval Letter

- After approving the request, choose **Manage Approval** from the left-hand menu.
- Find the candidate using search parameters at the top of the page.
  - Click the radio button next to the candidate's name.
  - Choose **Download Approval Letter** from the drop-down list below the table.
  - Click **Go**.
  - Download and distribute the letter. The candidate's employer is responsible for distributing the letter to the candidate.

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## School Districts Requesting Approval

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### Step 1 for School District: Initiate the Request

- Initiate the request by logging in to the MOECS.
- Select **Apply/Process Approval** from the left-hand menu (Figure 3).
- Enter the candidate's PIC. Select the **Teacher** category from the drop-down menu.
  - Choose the **Full Approval for Early Childhood Special Education** approval type.
  - Click **Next**.
- Complete all applicable information, including the approval program category and effective date (date of hire).

- Review and check the assurance and validation statements.
- Type the name as it appears to the right of the electronic signature box.
- Click **Submit**. The request will then go to the intermediate school district (ISD) to approve or deny.

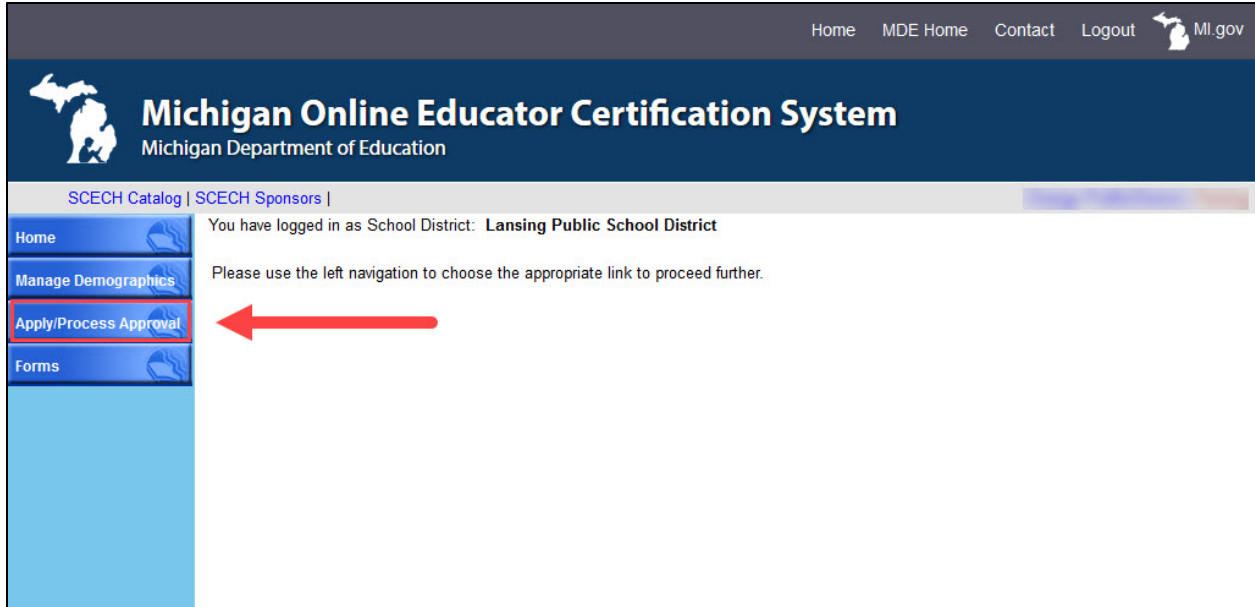


Figure 3. Apply/Process Approval menu item on the MOECS home page for the school district.

## Step 2 for ISD: Approve or Deny the Request

- Log in to the MOECS.
- Select **Apply/Process Approval** from the left-hand menu, and then choose **Process Approval** (Figure 4). A table of candidates who are in the approval process will appear.
  - Click on the candidate's application number to process the request, or search for a specific candidate using search parameters at the top of the page.
- Review the candidate's information. The ISD has the ability to change the school district or effective date if necessary. Select **Approve** or **Deny** from the drop-down menu near the bottom of the page.
  - If approving, check the validation statement, type the name as it appears to the right of the electronic signature box, and click **Approve**.
  - If denying, provide a reason for the denial and click **Submit**.
- If the application is denied, the school district will receive an email notification and may resubmit the request. If the application is approved, the school district will receive an email confirmation.

The screenshot shows the Michigan Online Educator Certification System (MOECS) interface. At the top, there are links for Home, MDE Home, Contact, and Logout, along with the MI.gov logo. The main header features the Michigan Online Educator Certification System logo and the Michigan Department of Education name. Below the header, there is a navigation menu on the left with options like Home, Manage Demographics, Apply/Process Approval, Apply for Approval, Process Approval (highlighted with a red box and a red arrow), Pay Fee, Manage Approval, and Forms. The main content area shows a login status for 'Ingham ISD - MASON' and a section for 'Apply for New Approval'. It includes a welcome message, a list of options (1. Apply for an Approval, 2. Process an Approval, 3. Pay Fee, 4. Manage an Approval), and a form with fields for PIC, Confirm PIC, and Category, and 'Next' and 'Clear' buttons.

Figure 4. Process Approval menu item under Apply/Process Approval on the MOECS home page for the intermediate school district.

### Step 3 for School District: Download the Approval Letter

- Log in to the MOECS.
- Select **Apply/Process Approval** from the left-hand menu, and then choose **Manage Approval**.
- Find the candidate using search parameters at the top of the page.
  - Click the radio button next to the candidate's name.
  - Choose **Download Approval Letter** from the drop-down list below the table.
  - Click **Go**.
  - Download and distribute the letter. The school district is responsible for distributing the letter to the candidate.