



# MSU EPP Guiding Tenets

Lara Dixon, Ed.D., Director of Educator Preparation and Accreditation

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This draft is shared as a starting point for collective reflection and shared governance, with the goal of inviting faculty engagement and building on the strong work already underway as we refine and align the Educator Preparation Program's mission, vision, goals, values, and guiding principles with those of the college and university.

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## Overarching Priority:

Innovation, partnerships, impactful teaching and learning, and progress that forwards our fundamental purpose, aiming to:

evolve our:

- teaching the next generation of researchers, innovators, and leaders
- practices, policies, and impact

and

lean into what:

- differentiates us from other land-grant, research- intensive colleges of education
  - forwards out MVVGs
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## Mantra - **Spartan Will!**

Our mantra embodies our determination, resilience, optimism, and daily commitment to make a positive impact

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## Mission

Advance learning and transform lives by preparing and supporting knowledgeable, impactful educators and leaders

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## **Vision**

Be an innovative, evidence-based, collaborative, and nationally acclaimed EPP that prepares the most impactful teachers and educational leaders, forwarding learning, belonging, well-being, achievement, and community

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## **Core Values**

- Inclusion
  - Impactful Learning for All
  - Innovation
  - Collaboration
  - Community
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## **Goals**

### **Goal 1: Prepare Effective Educators**

preparing candidates who demonstrate strong content knowledge, pedagogical skill, and the ability to positively impact B–12 student learning, growth, and well-being

### **Goal 2: Advance Practice**

ensuring candidates are equipped to teach in diverse educational settings, address opportunity gaps, and implement effective, inclusive, and progressive, research-based instructional strategies that forward learning, achievement, and well-being

### **Goal 3: Strengthen Clinical Preparation**

providing high-quality, developmentally sequenced clinical experiences aligned with standards and supported by strong school-university partnerships

### **Goal 4: Use Data to Improve Outcomes**

strategically using a comprehensive assessment system with multiple data sources to assess and improve candidate readiness, program effectiveness, and graduate impact on B–12 learners

## **Goal 5: Develop Reflective and Ethical Professionals**

cultivating educators who engage in reflective practice, adhere to ethical and professional standards, and demonstrate leadership and collaboration within schools and communities

## **Goal 6: Contribute to the Field Through Work, Practice, Research, and/or Service**

advancing educator preparation and B–12 education through faculty and candidate work, research, scholarship, and service to inform and evolve practice and policy

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### **Definitions**

- **Learning:**

As an EPP we define learning through a comprehensive, student-centered approach focusing on the acquisition of knowledge, skills, and behaviors that are applied to real-world problems.

Key aspects of our approach to learning emphasize active, intentional, and often community-engaged experiences that foster long-term retention and critical, interdisciplinary, and ethical thinking.

Learning is an active, socially situated, and reflective process through which educator candidates develop and integrate content knowledge, pedagogical skill, professional dispositions, and ethical judgment.

Learning is evidenced by candidates' ability to apply research-informed practices, adapt to diverse learners and contexts, and positively impact B–12 student learning and well-being.

- **Inclusion:**

One of MSU's three core values is inclusion. Inclusion embraces diversity but moves beyond it. Diversity is defined as the state or quality of being different, and as individuals we are all uniquely different. To be inclusive is to respect and value differences. We embrace people from all backgrounds, experiences, and viewpoints.

- **Diversity:**

We define diversity as the state or quality of being different. In educator preparation, we value and respect individual unique differences in learning needs, perspectives, and lived experiences within educational communities.

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## Resources

### MSU Strategic Plan (updated Fall 2025)

- <https://president.msu.edu/communications/2025/08/2025-08-07-strategic-plan-refresh>
- <https://strategicplan.msu.edu/>

#### Themes:

- Grow Talent for Michigan and Beyond
- Drive Health Transformation
- Enroll for the Future
- Build Community Together
- Achieve Next-Generation Operations and Organization

### MSU CED Strategic Plan Imagin(ED) 2030 (Updated Fall 2025)

- <https://education.msu.edu/about/strategic-plan>

#### Vision Statement

By 2030, we endeavor to be the preeminent model for a College of Education at a land-grant institution.

#### Mission Statement

The College of Education prepares leaders who address cognitive, physical and emotional well-being at the individual, community and societal levels by engaging in high-quality research, teaching and outreach that makes an impact and promotes the public good.

#### Core Priority Areas

- **Advance Education with Science:** Develop and enhance high-quality partnerships, programs, and research and outreach opportunities using science.
- **Commit to the Health and Well-being of Communities that We Serve:** Create and administer programs and research with stakeholders that promote healthier lifestyles and wellness for the communities that we serve.
- **Support the Evolving Workforce Needs in Our State:** Address the unique challenges and opportunities of Michigan's future workforce through the evolving preparation of highly qualified school and health-based professionals.
- **Expand connections to support the land-grant promise of inclusive, diverse communities:** Expand connections in suburban, rural, urban and global communities by co-creating initiatives that strengthen partnerships to improve education, health and wellness opportunities for all.
- **Improve lives through research that informs local, national and global policy:** Conduct, disseminate and translate research to inform policy and improve practice at the local, national and global levels.
- **Create a Best-In-Class Place to Work and Learn:** Recruit and retain Spartans by prioritizing belonging and well-being that fosters a positive, equitable and inclusive environment

## Department of Teacher Education's Core Principles and Statement (2017)

We are scholars, researchers, and teacher educators committed to practices of equity and social justice in education. As an intellectual community, we aspire to prepare students who have the strong disciplinary content knowledge, the skills and the dispositions to be effective educators and agents of equity-oriented change.

Our work is guided by the following core principles:

- **Humanizing Interactions, Practices & Scholarship:** We recognize the importance of attending to the humanizing aspects of our work and that building relationships of dignity and care is ethically necessary across our teaching, research and service.
- **Linking Theory, Action & Practice:** We seek to challenge the status quo of educational scholarship by reflexively engaging practice and theory for the purpose of advancing a graduate and undergraduate teacher education that produces excellence among future teachers and teacher educators.
- **Amplifying Voices:** We value multiple conceptual, theoretical, methodological and translational perspectives paying close attention to diverse and varied voices from communities that are often marginalized in education, including in our own work.
- **Transforming Relationships:** We seek to create trust and reciprocity to both nurture and challenge relationships with communities, students and other partners for the purpose of elevating the profession of teaching.
- **Participating in Public Discourse:** We proactively engage in public discourse with educational leaders, policy makers, and others concerned with education and teacher education.
- **Engaging in Ongoing Critical Self-reflection:** We study, question, debate and revise these dynamic and robust areas of investigation in order to improve our practice. Our stance is that these functions should not be seen as separate, but interdependent in the sense that strength in any one area depends upon strength in the others. We see the articulation of these principles as ongoing and continuously evolving.

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## MSU EPP Commitment and Guiding Questions (Fall 2025)

As an EPP, our commitment is to

- Act
- Support
- Serve
- Lead

in small and significant ways to keep Michigan State University as the leader of educational excellence. We aim to keep MSU as a place where all can learn and thrive in a caring community and all positively impact the world, forwarding equity, opportunity and prosperity.

Four questions guide our work:

- How will our actions impact student learning?
- How will our actions help meet the needs of the community?
- What adult learning is required to support our actions?
- How will our actions support fiscal responsibility?