

# K-12 Educational Administration at Michigan State University

## Fact Sheet

### Purpose

This fact sheet aims to support accurate understanding of MSU degree programs in K-12 Educational Administration for committees engaged in critical budgetary and strategic decisions.

### Overview

The K-12 program has been ranked [#1 in the nation in Educational Administration and Supervision](#) by *U.S. News and World Report* for the last three years. We offer three degree programs (MA, EdD, PhD) and include nine tenure-stream faculty. As leadership experts, our faculty hold many leadership positions at and beyond MSU (e.g., Associate Dean of MSU's Graduate School, Executive Director of the University Council for Educational Administration (UCEA), Director of MSU's Education Policy Innovation Collaborative (EPIC) research center). When tenure-stream faculty in these roles are unable to teach full course loads, we staff our classes with fixed-term faculty possessing extensive and relevant leadership experience in K-12 schools and districts. At present, one full-time and two part-time fixed-term faculty teach courses and support required clinical experiences.

### Reach & Impact

Aligned with MSU's land grant mission, our highly ranked K-12 programs are graduating strong leaders for Michigan schools, districts, ISDs, MDE and key professional associations (see map on the following page). This is a critical need across a state with declining educational and economic performance trends. Our alumni network is also a key resource to the College for its research and policy connections, and the quality of this network generates reputational benefits for the entire university. One alumni notes, *"The educational landscape has never been more complex. As an experienced leader at the building, district, and ISD level, the MSU EdD program supported my growth and leveraged my skills to be part of the solution to today's challenges."*

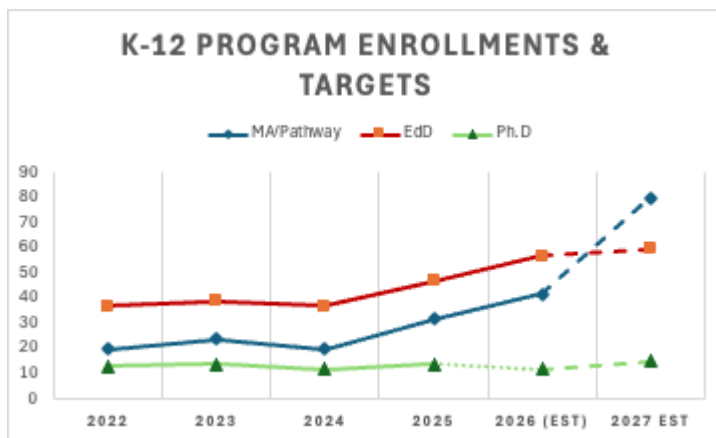
In addition to educational leaders, we prepare researchers committed to equitably improving school organizations and systems. Alongside faculty, our PhD students actively participate in prominent conferences, strengthening MSU's visibility in the field. PhD students also contribute to national and state-level research as graduate assistants at UCEA and EPIC. Many PhD graduates go on to faculty positions, with recent graduates at Syracuse University, the University of Nebraska Lincoln, and the University of Minnesota. One graduate reflects, *"The combination of rigorous coursework, attentive and caring professors, as well as the intellectually rich environment provided an experience that has equipped me comprehensively in my role as a researcher and faculty member."*

### Growth & Revenue Strategies

In 2023, the K-12 unit developed a 3-5 year enrollment growth plan. We met our 2025 targets.

**MA Enrollment.** All MA students are self-paying.

- This year, we launched a virtual, P-12 Educational Leadership degree that leads to principal certification. In fall 2025, 18 students enrolled. Another 6 students joined as Certification



Pathway students. The new online MA program is now an approved program for the Michigan Consortium for Addressing Rural Education Expansion and Retention (MiCAREER), which funds the leadership development of rural educators.

- We are developing an internationally targeted Educational Leadership & Policy Masters program with potential to double enrollment (and earn high tuition fees).
- We continue to offer a campus hybrid MA program for principal certification, but enrollment numbers remain a challenge. With 6 students starting fall 2025, we may sunset the program.

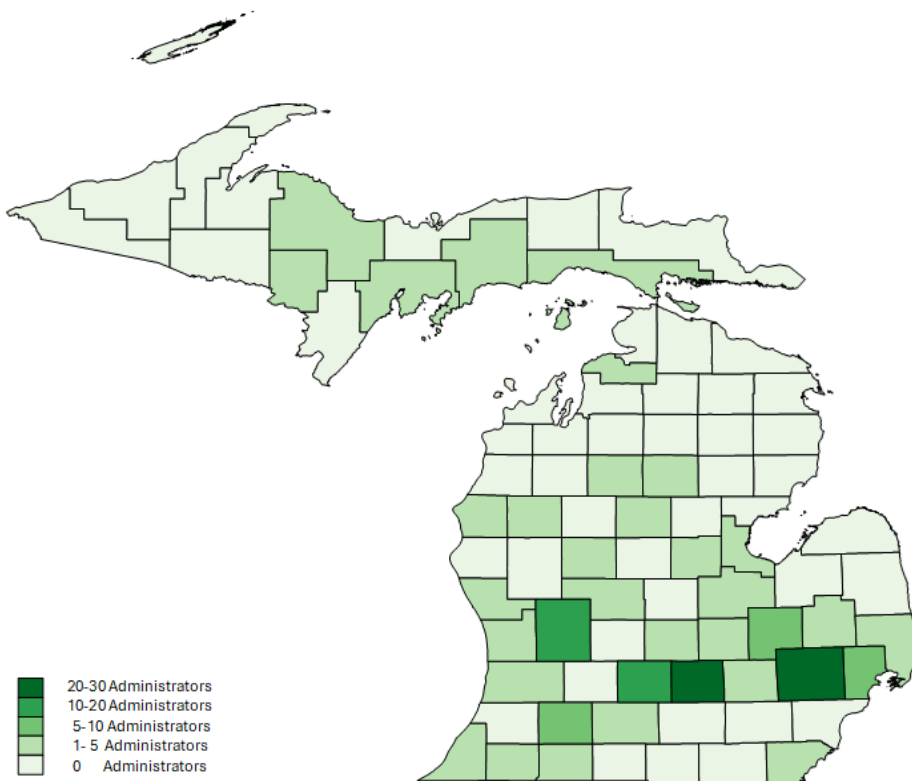
*Ed.D Enrollment.* All EdD students are self-paying.

- The EdD program is a 3-year, cohort-based, hybrid doctoral program that leads to central office administrative certification. We have a targeted enrollment of 20 students per year. Through strategic partnerships with Michigan professional associations, we have reached these targets and are receiving 35-40 applications per year.
- An online version of this program has significant national and international growth potential.

*Ph.D Enrollment.* PhD students are either funded by MSU as graduate assistants or self-paying.

- Our small, in-person PhD program annually admits 2-4 students who seek academic careers. We are exploring how program mergers may help develop a larger mix of assisted and self-paying PhD students. Since 2013, when our EdD program began serving practitioner leaders, our PhD program has focused on providing rigorous research training for academia.

### K-12 Educational Administration MA and EdD Students and Alumni are Educational Leaders Across Michigan



Students and graduates from our MA and EdD programs over the last 10 years currently serve as educational leaders across Michigan, including:

- 23 Superintendents**
- 14 Assistant Superintendents**
- 36 Directors of School District Offices**
- 64 Principals**
- 32 Assistant Principals**
- 7 Deans**

Graduates also hold leadership positions at the Michigan Department of Education and in Michigan professional associations for educational leaders.