MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (MDE)
Office of P-20 Data and Information Management
Educational Technology Unit

Minecraft Education Edition Licensing
Request for Applications

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS
(12-7-2017)
(Updated 12/28/17- KEY DATES)

DISCLAIMER

THE FOLLOWING APPLICATION ANNOUNCEMENT AND AWARD IS CONTINGENT ON THE AVAILABILITY OF LICENSES. APPLICATIONS WILL BE COLLECTED USING THE LINKED FORM: LICENSESS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE TENANTS HELD BY THE STATE OF MICHIGAN.

INTRODUCTION

The MDE is excited to announce a partnership with Microsoft EDU to provide 175,000 free student licenses for the Minecraft Education Edition (M:EE) for one year. The licenses are made available as part of the fiscal year (FY) 2017 State School Aid Act, Section 64(d). The intent of this legislation is to provide information technology education opportunities to students attending schools operating grades K-12, career and technical centers and career academies, and community colleges and universities. This program supports the legislative charge to provide a program that has components for all grade levels on computational thinking skills development using the latest gaming software.

The Minecraft Education Edition is the version of the popular open world game that is specifically designed for education, containing features that make Minecraft more accessible and effective in a classroom or after-school program setting. This program aligns to the MDE's Top 10 in 10 Strategic Plan by enhancing access to effective technology tools that support deeper and personalized learning. The free licenses can be deployed in both Microsoft enabled districts, as well as Google classroom districts.

PURPOSE OF THE APPLICATION

The purpose of this application is to identify eligible applicants and ensure a diversity in the deployment and implementation models. The application will also provide outline the assurance and certifications to ensure a successful deployment and move beyond access to highly effective use of technology tools in support of information technology skills and competencies that are essential for the college and career readiness.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS
All individual local education agencies (LEAs), public school academies (PSAs), and intermediate school districts (ISDs) that enroll students' grades K-12. The licenses are issued as a per individual bases, not per device therefore, museums and libraries are able to apply in partnership with their local school district. The application has been updated to allow for this model of deployment and implementation as well. The partnership model will have additional requirements to ensure that there is not a duplication of licensing, provide feedback for deployment continuous improvement, and impact data for this type of implantation model.

TOTAL LICENSES AVAILABLE

*****175,000*****

APPLICATION STRUCTURE:
The application is structured into four parts, contact information, technology, curriculum, and assurances and certification. Below is a list of all the questions under each category and helpful information to support the complete of each field. Each field provides necessary information to support the selection and deployment of the

1) <u>Contact Information</u>
   a) District Information
      The application will request information regarding the district, such as district code and name. These fields are required to identify eligibility and deployment location.

   b) Authorized Official
      The authorized official is the individual within the district that has the authority to enter into agreements on behalf of the district. Authorized official information includes name, title, and email address.

   c) Main Contact
      The main contact for this agreement is the individual that will be responsible at the ISD, district, or building level to support the deployment of M:EE, as well as support the coordination of the training efforts. This individual will also be responsible for meeting the assurances and certifications of the application, which include support to schedule trainings of staff and completion of the evaluation. Fields for main contact include, name, title, and email address.

   d) Key Information
      To support the selection of license users and the deployment and implementation of the licenses, additional information is needed. These fields include: the level of implementation (ISD, district, building, grade, classroom level, or library/museum), number of desired users (educators and students), list of building name and number (list all requesting buildings), number of classrooms, grade levels, and a deployment cohort.

2) Technology

Questions in this section will provided the information necessary to support the deployment of the licenses. To help with this question, Microsoft has provided technical specifications that can be found at https://education.minecraft.net/how-it-works/tech-specs/. This site will provide you with information on the specifications the operating systems, connectivity and peripherals. Questions include:

- What scenario best characterizes how M:EE will be accessed? (1:1 devices, laptop cart, computer lab, or other)
- What types of devices will be used?
- What are the specification of those devices?
- What operating system do these devices use and which version? (ex. Win10, macOS, Chrome)
- What is your school's preferred method for software deployment? (Intune, Set up School PC, SCCM, I don't know, other)
- Do your students and teachers have Microsoft 365 accounts? (this is not required, but a necessary data point to determine deployment process steps)

3) Curriculum

Questions in this section will provide the information necessary to support the educator implementation process and identify specific professional development opportunities for teachers/educators utilizing M:EE with students. Questions include:

- What is your M:EE integration model? (Within specific class, afterschool, unlimited use by students as appropriate, other)
- What subject area(s) are you considering for use with M:EE? (Math, Science, Social Studies, English Language Arts, Foreign Language, Computer Science, Other)

4) Assurance and Certifications

Each applicant must meet the following assurances and certifications.

- Agree to participate or send implementing staff to a minimum of a two (2) day training and participate in any additional webinars as dictated by need.
- Be willing to participate in a digital badging, certification, credentialing, or micro-credentialing program.
- Provide MDE with an electronic roster of participating students.
- Participate in any surveys or data collection processes sent out by the MDE for the purpose of evaluating the access to and use of this technology tool.

WHO SHOULD COMPLETE THE APPLICATION

A collaborative effort to complete the application process may be helpful to ensure that district administration is aware of the project, implementing educators are supported, technology and curriculum staff provide key points of information all for a successful deployment, implementation, and use by all stakeholders.

OPENING AND CLOSING DATES

The applications will be available online at www.techplan.org/ starting December 7, 2017 and are due by 11:59 p.m. on January 4, 2018.

ASSURANCE OF ACCURACY

For each application, an assurance must be submitted stating that all information provided within is true and accurate. If, during the implementation of the M:EE licensing project, the MDE establishes that inaccurate or false information was provided in the application, the licenses may be rescinded.

DEPLOYMENT SCHEDULE

The MDE and M:EE team have decided to breakdown the deployment of the licenses to provide a smooth deployment process, ensure supports are high-quality, and engage our stakeholders in a feedback process to gather lessons learned and continue to improve our process along the way. Therefore, there will be three license deployments, January, March, and May. See the Key Dates section below for more specifics.

KEY DATES*

December 7, 2017……RFA is announced via eblast memo

December 7, 2017……Application is live

January 8, 2018 ……Applications due at 11:59pm

January 9, 2018……Applications reviews

January 11, 2018……Award announcement released

Week of January 15, 2018……..Cohort A deployment begins

Week of March 5, 2018……Cohort B deployment begins

Week of May 14, 2018……Cohort C deployment begins

*All dates subject to change at the discretion of the MDE.

A universal two-day training will be provided two to four weeks after deployment. An additional deeper dive training will be provided six weeks after deployment. The deeper dive training will provide educators with specific training materials to support their unique journey and will ensure alignment to state standards.

REJECTION OF PROPOSALS:
The MDE reserves the right to reject any applications received as a result of this project announcement.

REVIEW PROCESS, CRITERIA, AND REVIEWERS:
The MDE utilizes a review panel when ranking its competitive applications. For this project, a review team will be composed of people from within and outside the MDE as needed, with expertise in M:EE, educational technology, and technical deployment processes. The MDE staff will supervise the review process. An administrative review will be conducted by MDE prior to license assignment and at the end of the licensing window to ensure all assurances and certifications have been met.

LENGTH OF AWARD
All licenses issued will have an expiration of one year after deployment.

NONPUBLIC SCHOOL PARTICIPATION:
State of Michigan law does not allow the use of these restricted State School Aid funds for non-public school funding.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
Additional resources are provided by the Microsoft EDU team on the M:EE at https://education.minecraft.net/. Resources include, but are not limited to:

- What is Minecraft
- Why Minecraft
- Tech Specs
- Training modules
- Community connections
- Blogs
- FAQ

If you have additional questions, please contact Amanda Stoel, Department Analyst, Office of P-20 Data and Information management, Education Technology Unit at stoela@michigan.gov or by phone at 517-241-3629.