Procedures to Follow when Seeking Eligibility for Temporary Approval To Practice as a School Social Worker In the State of Michigan

To practice as a **School Social Worker** in the State of Michigan (and in most other states, as well) one is required to-

- Have an MSW from an accredited School of Social Work
- Have gone through a process to become eligible for approval

(Refer to [http://www.mde.state.mi.us/off/sped/index.html](http://www.mde.state.mi.us/off/sped/index.html), click On-Line Library; find and click on Personnel Approvals; now click on Special Education Positions Requiring Approval; other personnel; School Social Worker; for more information)

Several universities in the State of Michigan offer a program to gain this approval. At the University of Michigan, the following program is currently in place for **MSW students**:

- Take Foundation Courses
- Take the following three required courses (or their equivalents):
  - SW 642 Social Work in Educational Settings
  - SW 612 Mental Health and Mental Disorders in Children and Youth
  - SW 614 Uses and Implications of Psychological Testing in Social Work
- Have Field and/or Practice Experience with Children or Adolescents and their Families

Prior to graduation, request the **Letter Granting Eligibility for Recommendation for Temporary Approval** from the Faculty Coordinator of the Approval Program. This letter allows you to be interviewed for school social worker positions within public school agencies. Once hired, you gain temporary approval status for a one year period. Following successful completion of one year of employment, while under the direction of a **Fully Approved School Social Worker**, the State will grant you Full Approval to practice as a School Social Worker.

If you are returning with an MSW to gain approval,

- The class requirements are the same and can be fulfilled through participation in workshops offered by the Continuing Education Program of any accredited School of Social Work.
- However, **eligibility for temporary approval must come from the Faculty Coordinator of the University that granted you the MSW**.

(For example: John, a graduate of Michigan State lives in Ann Arbor and commutes to Detroit. He may take one class from Wayne State University's program and the other two from U of M's program. Before starting this process, John needs to check with M.S.U.'s Faculty Coordinator to determine what he will need to complete for his letter of eligibility.)