

# Development of the Portfolio

## What is a Portfolio?

- A portfolio is a permanent record of meaningful and formative student experiences. Portfolios offer meaningful opportunities for self-analysis and assessment. They also represent a formal and public declaration of personal beliefs about effective teaching and enable beginning teachers to document and reflect on the significant stages in their professional development (Nerenz, 1996).

## Why Develop a Portfolio?

- Besides providing opportunities for self-analysis and assessment, portfolios integrate student experiences, provide a permanent record of accomplishments, and aid in the job search.

## What should be Included in a Portfolio?

- Portfolios should include documentation of the student's knowledge base. Such evidence from primary sources in the portfolio will demonstrate the student's knowledge of content standards as found in the *Professional Standards for Michigan Teachers* document found at [www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/SBE\\_approved\\_PSMT\\_May\\_13\\_2008+coverpg\\_258601\\_7.doc](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/SBE_approved_PSMT_May_13_2008+coverpg_258601_7.doc).
- As part of their portfolio development process beginning student teachers should also be aware of, and begin to meet, the *National Board for Professional Teaching Standards* ([www.nbpts.org](http://www.nbpts.org)). It is important that your portfolio show ways you can link your practice to the *National Board for Professional Teaching Standards*.