



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 30, 2021

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Michael F. Rice, Ph.D., State Superintendent 

SUBJECT: Invitation to Submit Nominations of Students to Serve on MDE Student Advisory Council

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is seeking nominations from local school district and public school academy leaders of high school students to serve on the 2021-2022 MDE Student Advisory Council (MDE-SAC). This council will continue the work of the group convened in the summer of 2020, and through the 2020-21 school year. Last year's council selected as a focus the creation of safe spaces in schools to discuss race and racism.

The MDE-SAC will meet virtually in monthly meetings with me and other department leaders to provide their perspective and feedback to inform new or ongoing MDE initiatives and efforts. It is also anticipated that the group will extend last year's work with the goal of producing recommendations, examples of best practices, and other materials to support the creation of safe spaces that will be shared with school districts across the state.

We are again looking to build a representative group that reflects the diversity in our state – diversity of ethnicity, geography, culture, disability, and native language, among other characteristics. Please also consider nominating students who are diverse socioeconomically and in their academic programming. We are especially interested in connecting with students who are already engaged in efforts to create more inclusive, more welcoming, and less divisive local school communities.

District and PSA leaders are invited to recommend one of their students for possible membership on the advisory council. Please submit your nominations via [this link](#), by October 11, 2021. Nominated high school students will receive an emailed invitation to submit a more detailed application that will include a short video or written personal statement. Applications will be reviewed, and council members will be selected. Those students selected to serve on the MDE-SAC will be provided

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Page 2
September 30, 2021

additional information regarding participation on the council in late October or early November.

We thank you for lifting student voice in your own school communities and appreciate you providing your students the opportunity to share at the state level, so that our work can be informed by their experiences.

Please contact us at MDE-Office-Of-The-Superintendent@michigan.gov with any questions.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors