



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 15, 2018

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

FROM: Sheila A. Alles 
Chief Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: Michigan ArcGIS Online United States School Competition 2018 and Free ArcGIS Education Software

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is pleased to announce the ArcGIS Online United States Competition 2018 in which students create and share maps about their home states. ArcGIS is a geographic information system (GIS) that depicts data geographically. GIS-based projects provide for integrated learning experiences across content areas and facilitate collaboration to tackle local and global challenges.

The competition is open to middle school and high school students who can analyze, interpret, and present data via an ArcGIS online presentation, web application, or story map. A school can submit up to five projects to the competition website. Submissions must be received no later than April 13, 2018. A group of Michigan educators and GIS professionals will judge the submissions, selecting five submissions each from middle and high school to send to Esri for inclusion in the national competition. Michigan's ten winning projects will each receive \$100. A national winner will be selected for both middle and high school, both projects earning a trip to the 2018 Esri Education Conference in San Diego. Competition details are available at: <http://arcg.is/1qzXLr>

ArcGIS software is freely available for K-12 instructional use from Esri. To learn more about how to access this free software go to <http://www.esri.com/connected>. Instructional materials posted on Esri's website can introduce students to web mapping through topics such as population dynamics, water pollution, marine debris, and resource consumption and wealth. Also available is GIS professional learning for educators and resources on creation or updating of curriculum using GIS software. For more information, contact Allison Hoff at geoggeol@emich.edu or 734-487-8487.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

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