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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING




MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

September 23, 2010

**MEMORANDUM**

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

FROM: Mike Flanagan, Superintendent of Public Instruction 

SUBJECT: Participation in Michigan Youth in Government

Since 1948, Michigan Youth in Government has been providing a dynamic civics program for Michigan teens. It is the only youth civics program in the state that has the extended privileges of occupying the actual State House and Senate chambers of the Michigan Capitol Building. The program is modern and multifaceted. If you are looking for a hands-on civics experience for your students, then Michigan Youth in Government is worth considering.

Students' engagement with government through MYIG will expose them to the Core Democratic Values of: Justice, Equality, Diversity, and Truth. Additionally, they will be exposed to the Constitutional Principles of: Representative Government, Individual Rights, and Separation of Powers (at the state level.)

Students' Social Studies proficiencies will improve through direct experiences with:

- Gathering and Understanding Information (bill writing)
- Analyzing Issues (debate within committees)
- Drawing and Justifying Conclusions (debate on the House and Senate floor)
- Organizing and Communicating Information (lobbying their position effectively)
- Learning and Considering Issues Collaboratively (forming legislative alliances)
- Acting Ethically (respecting the opinions of others during debate)

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Students will have fun, and enjoy the youth-centered, leadership and civics training through the State YMCA Michigan Youth in Government program. Contact our office soon! The program begins in the early fall of each school year and delegations are already forming.

Highlights of the program include:

- Elections for youth leadership positions of Youth Governor, Lt. Governor, and Speaker of the House
- Legislative participation in the House and Senate
- National Issues Forum
- The option to become part of a debate team, or a mock trial team
- Opportunities to be lobbyists, committee chairs, clerks, or press members
- National participation in Mock Trial, Youth Governors Conference, and Conference on National Affairs for high school teens
- Youth Leadership training
- Civic engagement

Conference dates for Middle School are November 21, 22, and 23, 2010. There are two choices for high School conferences, March 16-20 or March 30-April 3, 2011. Visit the Michigan Youth in Government website at [www.myig.org](http://www.myig.org). Contact the state office at 517-639-4480 or email [myig@charter.net](mailto:myig@charter.net) if you are interested in more information.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance