



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 7, 2016

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

FROM: Kyle L. Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent *KG*

SUBJECT: Michigan Department of Education Online Toolkit to Enact Climate and Culture Change and Reduce Student Suspensions and Expulsions

An online toolkit is now available to Michigan schools providing guidance on enacting culture and climate change in K-12 schools. The toolkit was designed to accompany the Michigan Model Code of Student Conduct which also includes the Model Policy on Reducing Suspensions and Expulsions.

To foster each student's academic success and pro-social development, schools are encouraged to consider research-based social and emotional learning strategies and options designed to promote positive behavior and modify negative behavior while holding students accountable and minimizing exclusion time. School administrators and educators can access resources relevant to their efforts to improve school climate. Family members seeking information on how to advocate for keeping their child in school have access to specific resources as well.

Embedded in the toolkit is a free, comprehensive set of principles on how to implement Restorative Justice Practices in schools. The 11 segment framework also includes video vignettes demonstrating how the practices can be utilized in the school setting. Access the online toolkit at www.Michigan.gov/mdealternativestoolkit.

Questions may be directed to Lauren Kazee in the Coordinated School Health and Safety Programs unit at KazeeL@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

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