



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

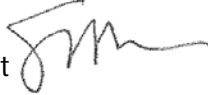
GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

SHEILA A. ALLES  
INTERIM STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** January 24, 2019

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

**FROM:** Dr. Scott M. Koenigsknecht, Deputy Superintendent  
P-20 System and Student Transitions 

**SUBJECT:** Michigan Department of Education Hosts Black History Month Program

The Michigan Department of Education will host a special Black History Month event on Thursday, February 21, 2019 at the Library of Michigan from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. The event, entitled “A Dining Room Discussion,” will feature a dynamic panel of eight African American women who will engage in thought provoking conversation about issues impacting urban core districts. Panelists will also offer specific policy recommendations. State Board of Education Vice President, Dr. Pamela Pugh, will serve as your “dining room host.”

Specific outcomes will include:

- Learning how the Top 10 in 10 Years plan can be used to promote better academic outcomes for African American students in Michigan;
- Developing a deeper understanding of how the proposed changes to Social Studies standards might impact African American student outcomes and experiences in Michigan’s public schools;
- Examining the pros and cons of Michigan’s Marshall Plan through the lens of African American students; and
- Informing policy and funding decisions based on a seldom heard collective voice.

For those not able to attend in person, the event will be streamed live through the East Lansing affiliate of the Public Broadcasting Station WKAR. The event is free and open to the public. Two lucky audience members will receive a free book *Becoming* by Michelle Obama. Registrations can be made via the SurveyMonkey QR code on the attached invitation. Questions regarding the event may be directed to Dr. Beverly Brown, Event Chair, at [brownb21@michigan.gov](mailto:brownb21@michigan.gov).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

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608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909  
[www.michigan.gov/mde](http://www.michigan.gov/mde) • 833-633-5788