



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** August 29, 2019

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

**FROM:** Venessa A. Keesler, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent   
Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports

**SUBJECT:** 2020 United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP)

The United States Senate Youth Program, established in 1962 by U.S. Senate Resolution, is a unique educational experience for outstanding high school students interested in pursuing careers in public service. The 58th annual program will be held in Washington, D.C., from March 7-14, 2020. It provides an opportunity for qualified high school juniors and seniors to deepen their understanding of America's political processes. Please make sure this opportunity is available to all interested students.

This initiative aligns with Michigan's Top 10 in 10 Years Strategic Plan Goal 2: Implement, with strong district and building leadership, high-quality instruction in every classroom through a highly coherent, child-centered instructional model where students meet their self-determined academic and personal goals to their highest potential.

Two students are selected from each state. Each student will receive an all-expense paid trip to attend *Washington, D.C. Week*, March 7-14, 2020 and a \$10,000 undergraduate college scholarship award.

Please refer to the link below for more details including the application process. Further information about the USSYP program and application process can be found on the [USSYP website](#).

**Please note that all schools are responsible for the administration of the USSYP Qualifying Examination and Essay, which is to be proctored onsite by a teacher or administrator from the district.**

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**APPLICATIONS ARE DUE FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2019 BY 5:00 PM EST.**

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Anne-Lise Halvorsen, Awards Chair, Michigan Council for History Education at [annelise@msu.edu](mailto:annelise@msu.edu) with the subject line: USSYP.

We look forward to receiving applications from your students for this exciting opportunity!

cc: Michigan Education Alliance