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STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

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SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

April 7, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents, and Public School Academy Administrators

FROM: Sally Vaughn, Ph.D. *Sally*
Deputy Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer

SUBJECT: Michigan Arts Education Survey

Creativity and innovation are key skills needed in today's workforce. Arts Education is one of the subject areas that helps foster these skills in our students. To gain a better understanding of our students' engagement in these subjects, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is supporting a statewide Visual and Performing Arts Education Survey.

The survey measures arts course offerings, student participation, dedicated arts resources, district policy, instructional support, and the extent to which community assets are utilized in Michigan's schools. It is part of a broader Arts Education Census Project, a collaborative partnership between the Michigan Department of Education, the Michigan Council of Arts and Cultural Affairs, Michigan Youth Arts, ArtServe Michigan, and Quadrant Arts Education Research. The Census Project will gather, evaluate, and disseminate qualitative and quantitative data regarding the status and condition of arts education throughout Michigan.

The survey findings will be released late in 2011. An in-depth analysis of school data will assist project partners in understanding the level of student involvement with the arts. Additionally, the survey data will help identify model programs across the state, as well as opportunities to align resources to insure that all students meet or exceed the requirements of the Michigan Curriculum Content Standards in the Visual and Performing Arts.

I urge you to respond to the survey, which is web-enabled and available online through April 29 at <http://michiganyoutharts.org/survey.html>. Since the survey asks for information on the arts programs in each of your schools, it would be helpful to involve your district arts staff in completing the survey.

If you have any questions, please contact Bob Morrison via email at bob@artsedresearch.org or (908) 542-9396.

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