



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 21, 2017

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

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

SUBJECT: "Do the Write Thing Challenge"

"Do the Write Thing" invites your 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students to participate in the 2018 "Do the Write Thing Challenge". All across America, students like yours are rising to the challenge of doing something to end youth violence. The "Challenge" gives middle school students an opportunity to examine the impact of violence on their lives and to communicate in written form what they think should be done to reduce youth violence. Personal responsibility is emphasized. By encouraging students to make personal commitments to do something about the problem, the program ultimately seeks to give them the opportunity to break the cycles of violence in their homes, schools and neighborhoods. Your involvement and support are crucial to the success of the "Challenge" in your school.

Students may use any form of written expression (e.g. essays, poems, plays, or songs) as long as the language is positive and not derogatory. Student entries, at a minimum, should address three questions:

- How has violence affected my life?
- What are the causes of youth violence?
- What can I do about youth violence?

Please review the following materials concerning program rules, entry deadlines, selection criteria, classroom discussion, and student recognition before presenting the program to your students.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

CASANDRA E. ULBRICH – CO-PRESIDENT • RICHARD ZEILE – CO-PRESIDENT
MICHELLE FECTION – SECRETARY • TOM MCMILLIN – TREASURER
NIKKI SNYDER – NASBE DELEGATE • PAMELA PUGH
LUPE RAMOS-MONTIGNY • EILEEN LAPPIN WEISER

608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
www.michigan.gov/mde • 517-373-3324

Page 2
December 21, 2017

Please find more information about the "Do the Write Thing Challenge" through this link www.dtwt.org and in the [2018 Michigan Schools Participation Packet](#).

If you have questions about the "Challenge", please contact Zemen Marrugi at info@zemenmarrugi.com.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance