



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

SHEILA A. ALLES
INTERIM STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 14, 2019

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

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

SUBJECT: 2019 Do the Write Thing

"Do the Write Thing" invites your 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students to participate in the 2019 "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 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.

Please find more information about the "Do the Write Thing Challenge" through this link: www.dtwtdetroit.com and in the 2019 Michigan Schools Participation Packet.

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

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

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