

The Governor's Educator Advisory Council

Proclamation for Social Justice

The deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery have angered, frustrated, and saddened a nation. We, as members of the Governor's Educator Advisory Council, hear the moral outcry being shouted and felt throughout the world. We support the peaceful protests around the globe that are being conducted by our youth who continue to demand an end to systemic racism and police brutality. We believe education is the key to promoting social justice in society.

Whereas, 38% of Black children live in poverty in Michigan¹

Whereas, 26% of Latinx children live in poverty in Michigan²

Whereas, 21% of Indigenous children live in poverty in Michigan³

Whereas, only 70% of Black students graduate high school in Michigan⁴

Whereas, only 77% of Latinx students graduate high school in Michigan⁵

Whereas, only 70% of Indigenous students graduate high school in Michigan⁶

Therefore, be it resolved, that Black lives matter.

The Governor's Educator Advisory Council does hereby proclaim, July 7, 2020, to be anti-racist. We realize we are battling two deadly viruses: COVID-19 and the virus of racism. We pledge to promote educational policies, practices, and resources which will help put an end to systemic racism. We will fight for more diversity in all aspects of the educational profession. We pledge to end the criminalization of Black and Brown and Indigenous youth by the public school system. It is our goal to create a diverse and equitable public education system for all youth in Michigan.



1 The Annie E Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, Children in poverty by race and ethnicity in Michigan – 2018 <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/44-children-in-poverty-by-race-and-ethnicity#detailed/2/24/false/37/10,11,9,12,1,185,13/324,323> (accessed July 7, 2020).

2 Ibid.

3 The Annie E Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, Children in poverty by race and ethnicity in Michigan – 2012 <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/44-children-in-poverty-by-race-and-ethnicity#detailed/2/24/false/37,868/10,11,9,12,1,185,13/324,323> (accessed July 7, 2020). Most recently available data.

4 Michigan's Center for Educational Performance and Information, 2018-19 Graduation Dropout Snapshot, 4-Year (2019 Graduation Cohort) / Race/Ethnicity / All Students. <https://www.mischooldata.org/DistrictSchoolProfiles2/StudentInformation/GraduationDropoutRate3.aspx> (accessed July 7, 2020).

5 Ibid.

6 Ibid.