STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 14, 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: Hour of Code – An Easy Way to Introduce Students to Computer Science

Michigan schools are encouraged to participate in the Hour of Code/Computer Science Education Week, December 9-15, 2019. The Hour of Code, www.hourofcode.com, highlights how all students can use computer science to make a positive impact on the world, from writing apps to solving a local problem to using innovative ideas in data science to address global challenges. The theme for this year's Hour of Code is "CS for Good," inspired by the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Hour of Code is an excellent introduction, for both students and educators, to Michigan's recently adopted K-12 Computer Science (CS) Standards. Through the adoption of these standards, Michigan recognizes that computer science learning opportunities must be available to all students, regardless of where they live in the state or the demographics of the schools they attend. Computer science is not just vocational; it is foundational.

The Hour of Code started as a one-hour introduction to computer science designed to demystify "code," to show that anyone can learn the basics, and to broaden participation in computer science. It has since become a worldwide effort to celebrate computer science and has expanded beyond one-hour coding activities.

The Michigan Department of Education invites Michigan educators to introduce students to their first hour of computer science with these steps. The Hour of Code is easy to run – even for beginners!

- How to teach one Hour of Code with your class
- Hour of Code Participation Guide
- Hour of Code Teacher Forum
- Hour of Code FAQ

For more information, please go to www.michigan.gov/mde-cs or contact Ann-Marie Mapes at 517-335-2775.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance