



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** May 15, 2020

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

**FROM:** Michael F. Rice, Ph.D., State Superintendent 

**SUBJECT:** Return to School Work Groups - MEMO #COVID-19-056

As many of you are aware, Governor Whitmer announced this afternoon that the COVID-19 Task Force on Education will be providing her with recommendations on when and under what conditions to open schools. A few Michigan Department of Education (MDE) staff members and I sit on the task force and look forward to that important work. The task force comprises state government staff members, including a number of individuals from MDE and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, with national group facilitation.

At the same time, the governor indicated that she will be accepting applications for the Return to Learn Advisory Council to provide suggestions to the aforementioned task force.

Concurrent with and complementary to the task force's work, MDE is convening three work groups – suburban, urban, and rural – to help inform the task force's work and to help shape department guidance to the 831 local education agencies (LEAs) across the state during this challenging year of pandemic. MDE Chief Deputy Superintendent Ms. Sheila Alles and Oakland Schools Superintendent Dr. Wanda Cook-Robinson will chair the suburban work group; Chief of Staff to the State Superintendent Dr. Sue C. Carnell and Dearborn Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Glenn Maleyko will chair the urban work group; and MDE Deputy Superintendent Dr. Scott Koenigsknecht and MASA Executive Director Mr. Chris Wigent will chair the rural work group.

Thank you for your continued leadership and partnership on behalf of children.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance  
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors

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