



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 26, 2023

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

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

SUBJECT: Invitation to Submit Nominations of Students to Serve on 2023-24 MDE Student Advisory Council

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is seeking nominations from intermediate school districts (ISDs) and local education agencies (LEAs), both traditional public school districts and public school academies (PSAs), of students who will be in high school in the 2023-24 school year to serve on the 2023-2024 MDE Student Advisory Council (MDE-SAC).

The council continues to build upon the work of the group that first convened in the summer of 2020. Past years' council members have selected focus areas that include the creation of safe spaces in schools to discuss issues of race and racism and the amplification of student voice in relation to their school experiences.

In 2023-24, the MDE-SAC will convene monthly with me and other department leaders to provide perspective and feedback on new or ongoing MDE initiatives and efforts. Most monthly meetings are virtual and take place in the late afternoon or early evening, with one or more in-person daytime convenings. Members may also participate in MDE-SAC workgroups that meet outside of the monthly meeting schedule.

I am looking to build a representative student group that reflects the diversity in our state—diversity of ethnicity, geography, socioeconomic status, culture, disability, and native language, among other characteristics. Please also consider nominating students who are diverse in their academic programming and/or who face greater challenges accessing educational opportunities.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

PAMELA PUGH – PRESIDENT • ELLEN COGEN LIPTON / TIFFANY D. TILLEY – CO-VICE PRESIDENTS
JUDITH PRITCHETT – SECRETARY • MARSHALL BULLOCK II – TREASURER
MITCHELL ROBINSON – NASBE DELEGATE • TOM MCMILLIN • NIKKI SNYDER

District and PSA leaders are invited to recommend up to two students per high school for possible inclusion on the student advisory council. Please submit nominations via [this link](#), by February 17, 2023. Nominated students will receive an emailed invitation to apply. Applications will be reviewed, and council members will be selected. Students selected to serve on the MDE-SAC will receive additional information in May.

Thank you for lifting up student voice in your own school communities and in helping student voice inform what we do in the department to support students, staff, and schools in local school districts. I appreciate you providing your students with the opportunity to share at the state level so that our work is informed by their experiences.

Please contact us at MDE-SAC@michigan.gov with any questions.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Departments