



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 11, 2024

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

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

SUBJECT: Teaching Black History: Lessons from Educators

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) believes that comprehensive history instruction includes teaching about the full breadth of our country's—and world's—history, including historical movements, themes, and groups. It includes the teaching of not simply the soaring but of the searing, not simply the uplifting but the deflating. It entails diverse perspectives throughout the year, with additional instruction to honor specific groups of people during recognized heritage months.

Many Michigan districts, schools, and educators have leaned into the why and how of teaching Black History. MDE appreciates those educators and/or districts that have taught and woven Black History throughout the school year, with an extra emphasis in February as a celebration of Black History Month.

MDE is surveying educators about why and how they teach Black History. Educators are encouraged to submit to the department a lesson, set of lessons, and resources used to teach Black History. These may be lessons and resources used in February or any other time of the year. Selected submissions will be curated and shared publicly with educators throughout the state, with a recognition of those educators whose lessons are selected.

Please consider completing this form, [Teaching Black History: Lessons from Educators](#), to share lessons and resources that are happening in your district, school, or classroom. **The deadline to submit is January 26, 2024.** Your attention to this abbreviated timeframe is appreciated.

For additional information, please contact the MDE Literacy Unit at [MDE-
EarlyLiteracy@michigan.gov](mailto:EarlyLiteracy@michigan.gov).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Departments

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