



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 21, 2024

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 2024-25 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 2024-25 school year to serve on the 2024-2025 MDE Student Advisory Council.

This council continues to build upon the work of the student group that I first convened in summer 2020. Past years' state student council members have selected focus areas that include creation of safe spaces in schools to discuss issues of race and racism and amplification of student voices in relation to their school experiences. In 2023-24, the council released its Safe Spaces Resource Document, A Guide for Michigan Educators.

In 2024-25, the council 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 late afternoon or early evening, with the potential for one or more in-person daytime convenings. Members may also participate in workgroups or other activities that take place outside the monthly meeting schedule.

I am looking to build a representative group that reflects the diversity of 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 or face greater challenges accessing educational opportunities.

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Name

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District and PSA leaders are invited to recommend up to two students per district for possible membership on the advisory council. Please [submit nominations via this link](#) by April 25, 2024. 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 Student Advisory Council will receive additional information by the end of this school year.

Thank you for lifting up student voice in your school community and helping student voices inform what we do in the department to support students, staff, and schools. 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 Directors