

STATEMENT: Equity and Justice for Michigan students

JUNE 2020

THE MICHIGAN ASSESSMENT CONSORTIUM (MAC) is a nonpartisan and nonprofit professional association of educators who believe quality education depends on accurate, balanced, and meaningful assessment. In support of our mission to improve student learning and achievement for *all* students, we would like to address the current circumstances facing our schools in responding to the growing public rejection of racial inequity in American society and to call for societal changes that ensure equity of opportunity and safety for Black students and other students of color.

Where we stand

In the past few weeks, we have witnessed unprecedented movements towards racial justice, equity, and inclusion across the United States, and indeed across the globe. We are saddened by the killing of George Floyd and countless others whose lives have been cut short. We stand with all who seek justice.

As a professional education organization, equity and inclusion are at the heart of our mission. We believe that all children deserve a quality education that prepares them for success. In that belief, we are committed to breaking down barriers of systemic racial inequality through high quality professional learning, resources, and support to Michigan educators. We recognize that Black students deserve more from the education system than they have historically received, and we are prepared to engage in critical conversations across the broader Michigan education community.

We know that a part of that critical conversation involves the proper use of assessment in our schools. We fiercely advocate for assessment literacy for all school stakeholders, so that assessment advances student learning. We oppose the misuse of assessment, which we recognize can be used to harm student learning, including disproportionately placing Black students in special education programs, and denying Black students opportunities to engage in advanced learning opportunities.

The Michigan Assessment Consortium will continue to promote quality practices in assessment so that all students are prepared for success. If students of color are not prepared for success, we cannot and will not achieve our core mission. We will fight for educational justice, and we call upon all Michigan school stakeholders to join us in that fight. As our nation grieves from the tragedies of these troubling moments, we stand resolute to build a better tomorrow.

SUMMARY STATEMENT

We at the Michigan Assessment Consortium are saddened by the killing of George Floyd and countless others whose lives have been cut short. We stand with all who seek justice.

To that end, we commit to:

- breaking down barriers of systemic racial inequality by producing high quality professional learning, resources, and support for educators.
- engage in critical conversations across the broader Michigan education community.
- advocate for assessment literacy for all school stakeholders, so that assessment advances student learning.
- oppose the misuse of assessment, which we recognize can be used to harm student learning, including inappropriately placing Black students in special education programs, and denying Black students opportunities to engage in advanced learning opportunities.
- promote quality practices in assessment so that all students are prepared for success.