



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

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GOVERNOR

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** May 3, 2018

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

**FROM:** Shelia A. Altes   
Chief Deputy Superintendent

**SUBJECT:** #GoOpen Michigan Showcase

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) would like to invite classroom teachers and administrators to the #GoOpen Michigan Showcase. This event aligns to all four focus areas of Michigan's Top 10 in 10 Strategic Plan by bringing together strategic partners to support Michigan's effective educators to use learner-centered supports accessed in a systemic infrastructure. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about Open Educational Resources (OER): what they are, how to use them, and where to find them, as well as engage with a community of OER Champions. Attendees will explore how to:

- empower learners to be creative communicators, global collaborators, and knowledge constructors;
- freely design learning experience for students; and
- access an endless supply of free high-quality resources.

It is the goal of the #GoOpen Michigan Strategy Team to ensure that attendees:

- understand the background of #GoOpen and have an opportunity to discuss the benefits of joining the #GoOpen Michigan Community;
- can define open educational resources (OER) and determine the difference between free, open, and proprietary instructional materials;
- become familiar with Michigan's #GoOpen Toolkit and take away tools for use in their classroom;
- connect with the current #GoOpen districts and OER advocates through conversations and presentations; and
- develop mentor and peer relationships among various stakeholder groups that lead to long term collaboration.

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The Showcase will be offered at Kent Intermediate School District and Macomb Intermediate School District on June 18. It will also be offered at Gratiot-Isabella Regional Education Service District on June 19. In partnership with the Annual Upper Peninsula (U.P.) Summer Institute, the #GoOpen Michigan Showcase team will be presenting breakout sessions on June 20 and 21 at Marquette-Alger ISD.

Kristina Ishmael, Public Interest Technology Fellow at New America will present the keynote at each Showcase. Kristina is collaborating with the Education Policy program to support states and districts using OER to transform teaching and learning. She taught high-risk English-Learner (EL) students, second grade, and kindergarten students, which has given her a unique perspective on deploying educational technology in the classroom setting.

Cost for the event is \$40. To register for the June 18 or 19 session visit <https://www.solutionwhere.com/ww/Aspx/Public/Search/ShowCourse.aspx?courseNum=118&cId=47&pcId=0>. To receive more information about the U.P. Summer Institute visit: <https://www.smores.com/zn8pr>. To learn more about #GoOpen Michigan visit [www.michigan.gov/mde-GoOpen](http://www.michigan.gov/mde-GoOpen).

For questions, please contact Becky Wartella, Department Technician, Office of Systems, Evaluation, and Technology at [wartellar@michigan.gov](mailto:wartellar@michigan.gov) or by phone at 517-373-8480.

cc: Education Alliance