2020 Census “Did You Know?” – Information for School Communications

Please periodically include these short facts in your newsletters starting in March through the end of April. Feel free to repeat some of the information throughout the two months.

Please lead with the headline: 2020 Census – Did You Know?

Information to share in first newsletter

The 2020 Census will start in March and run through July. The Ann Arbor Public Schools are working with the Ann Arbor Area League of Women Voters to share information about the 2020 Census to families, students and staff. Periodically throughout the next two months our school’s newsletter will include facts about the 2020 Census. You will also see posters throughout our school.

The Constitution requires a count of “every whole person living in the U.S. every 10 years and determines:

- How many members of Congress each state gets,
- How much federal money flows to each state (currently Michigan gets about $29 billion a year), and
- Provides demographic information to public, private and individual planners.


2020 Census – Your Privacy is Protected and Confidential

It is against the law for the Census Bureau to publicly release your responses in any way that could identify you or your household. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share your answers with any other government agency including law enforcement purposes. By law, your responses cannot be used against you by any government agency or court including the FBI, CIA, Homeland Security, US. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

There is NO citizenship question on the 2020 Census.

2020 Census – How is the data used?

Residents use the census to support community initiatives involving legislation, quality-of-life and consumer advocacy.

Local governments use the census for public safety and emergency preparedness.

Businesses use census data to decide where to build factories, offices, stores which create jobs.

Real estate developers use the census to build new homes and revitalize old neighborhoods.
Counting for Dollars – 2020 Census
In 2016 Michigan received $29,208,978,056 through 55 federal spending programs guided by data derived from the 2010 census. The top categories of how these funds were obligated in this state include: Medicaid, Federal Direct Student Loans, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs, Highway Planning & Construction, Federal Pell Grants, Section 8 Housing Vouchers, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Low to Moderate Income Housing Loans.

How Do I Respond to the 2020 Census?
You will have the option of responding to the census online, by mail, or by phone. Households that don’t respond in one of these ways will be visited by a census taker to collect the information in person. Regardless of how you respond, your personal information is protected by law. Your online responses are safe from hacking and other cyberthreats. All data submitted is encrypted and once your data is received it will no longer be available online.

The 2020 Census data will be used to draw Congressional districts
Census data is used to divide and allocate legislative districts at the state and local levels to account for population shifts. In 2021 in Michigan, the Citizens Redistricting Commission, not the legislature, will redraw the election district lines. The shape of a district determines which people vote for the Member of Congress or legislator from that district.

After the 2010 Census, Michigan received 14 Members of Congress. We once had 18. We may lose one member in 2021, especially if people do not respond.

Census History
The Census is required by Article I, Sect 2 of the Constitution
“The Census counts every whole person living in each state. Once, only once, and in the right place.” The first census was in 1790.

Taking Part in the 2020 Census is Your Civic Duty
Completing the Census is required: It’s a way to participate in our democracy and say “I Count”. The Census is available in 60 languages.