

# Together We Make a Difference

## Call-to-Action



Minnesota Educational Leadership Organizations in partnership with Paula Forbes and Youth Lens 360



A Statewide Student Conversation and Collective Call-to-Action to provide the opportunity for all students to learn, participate, and create safe and respectful educational environments free from racial, gender, and religious harm.

# OUR WHY

Recently students, schools and communities have experienced racist events that tell us we as school leaders have work to do to raise the level of respect and honor for diversity and inclusion of all students in Minnesota activities and athletics. Mistreatment of anyone on any basis is not only intolerable, it is something we, as educational leaders, unequivocally condemn. Racial, gender and religious harassment is simply unacceptable in our schools.

The goal of safe, supportive school environments is of paramount importance. It is essential that every effort be made, and action is taken to ensure that all students have a safe environment in which to learn and participate in activities and athletics. In addition, victims of racism or other forms of harassment need support.

Together, we commit to making every effort to ensure that students have a safe environment in which to learn and participate in activities and athletics. In response to these incidents an initiative has been launched to improve student-participant, coach, spectator, student, staff and community behavior in all activities.



## Call-to-Action

Starting in August 2022, we are committing to work with Minnesota high school students who participate in activities or athletics to facilitate student-generated, student-led conversations on creating respectful environments free from racial, gender, and religious harm. This initiative will engage hundreds of students from across Minnesota as we host seven World Café conversations. The information from the World Café events will be brought to a statewide student conference in November 2022 in the Twin Cities. Students who participated in the regional conversations will be invited to be part of this statewide conference.

# WORLD CAFÉ

## CONVERSATION MODEL

The World Café refers to both a vision and a method of dialogue. World Café Conversations are an intentional way to create a living network of conversation around questions that matter. A Café Conversation is a creative process for leading collaborative dialogue, sharing knowledge and creating possibilities for action in groups of all sizes. At times, the challenges of life require us to find new ways to access the wisdom and intelligence inherent in groups both small and large. We use this process to invite people to dialogue with us. Right now, the need for collaboration, insight and coordinated action has never been greater. Café Conversations gather collective insight that evolves from honoring unique contributions, connecting ideas; listening into the middle; noticing deeper themes and questions.



### Our Student Champions Will Host This Process

Any student who participates in activities, athletics, and fine arts and wants to host a conversation to address student conduct, bullying, gender, race and other issues that impacts the full participation of any student. We are looking for student leaders who honor other students for who they are and the gifts they bring to the world. They are champions of respect, diversity and leaders that see the need to work to make a positive impact in in their school community.

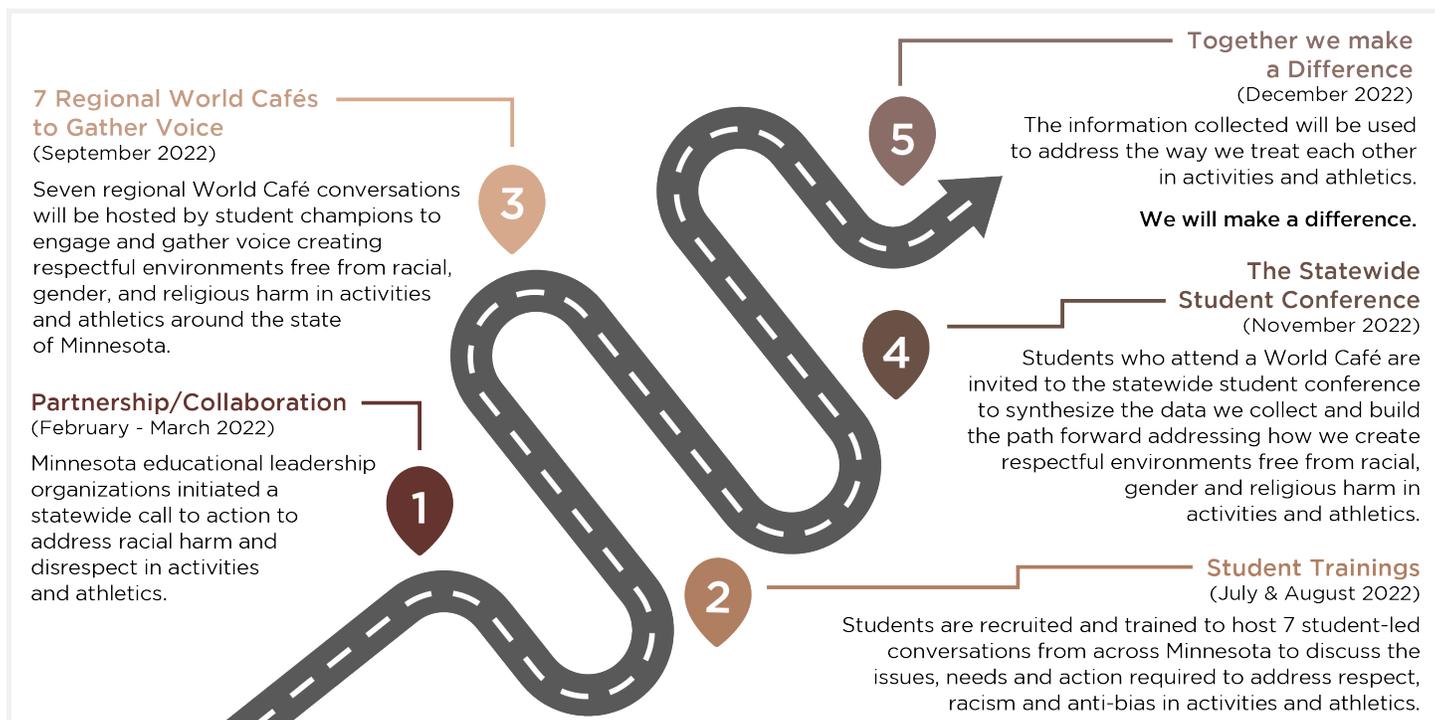
### The Commitment

This work requires everyone to lean in and participate. We will look to seven school districts to host World Café conversations. We will rely on school administrators, coaches and our association partners to recruit our student champions and help communicate and support the work. We invite and encourage all leaders, principals, school board members, superintendents and community members to spread the word about this important work.

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**Acknowledgement:** For more information about The World Café™ developed by Juanita Brown, please visit [www.worldcafe.com](http://www.worldcafe.com). Forbes Solutions PLLC. has designed and developed a unique method of gathering student and community voice for this partnership and has tailored this proven model to meet the purpose of this undertaking.

# ROADMAP/TIMELINE



## STATEWIDE WORLD CAFÉS

Date	Location
September 14	Detroit Lakes High School
September 15	Grand Rapids High School
September 20	Rochester, Century High School
September 21	St. Louis Park High School
September 27	St. Cloud Tech High School
September 28	North High School, North St. Paul
October 3	Redwood Area Community Center, Redwood Falls

Visit [www.mshsl.org](http://www.mshsl.org) for more information.

## CONTACT INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPATING ASSOCIATIONS

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