

Support Gov. Whitmer's Budget Proposal To Increase School Funding

Support Michigan's Schools:

Governor Gretchen Whitmer knows that Michigan's current way of funding schools is broken. She has plans to increase school funding by a half a billion dollars, increasing per-student annual funding and increase funding for special needs and at-risk students. Economically disadvantaged and academically at-risk students would see increases, as well as student opportunities for additional career and technical services. Large and small districts alike, such as Detroit and Indian River, have seen a loss of students to Charter and other schools, which leaves them with a disproportionate number of special needs students and no adequate way to fund them.

Why is fixing how we fund our schools so important? Current research shows that the decrease in student achievement is related to state funding. Michigan ranked 50th in growth in one of the major indicators of student performance, and ranks among the bottom 5 states when it comes to funding its low-income and special needs students. Our governor states that we cannot have a strong economy if we don't invest in education. The complex and difficult needs of our individual school districts puts a strain on our local communities. By not properly funding special education, we are denying these students the potential to live productive and happy lives.

What is happening? Both the House and Senate presented their budgets including increased funding for education, but they have not adequately addressed the disproportionate funding for our special needs students. They are also looking to grab school funds from other sources, such as decreasing State University funding.

What can we do? We can call the Republican State House Representatives and Senators who should be concerned about Michigan's low standing in education among other states, especially concerning special education.

Please call the following Senators:

Jim Stamas, Senate Appropriations Chair, 517-373-7946 Kim LaSata, 21th District:
517-373-6960

Ruth Johnson, 14th District: 517-373-1636 Lana Theis, 22nd District:
517-373-2420

Pete Lucido, 8th District: 517-373-7670 Michael McDonald 10th District:
517-373-7315

Ed Broom, 38th District: 517-373-7840

State Representatives:

Shane Hernandez, House Appropriations Chair, 517-313-0835

JoeBellino, 17th District: 517-373-1530 Julie Calley, 87th District:
517-373-0842

Diana Farrington, 30th District: 517-373-7768 Roger Hauck, 99th District:
517-373-1789

Gary Howell, 82nd District: 517-373-1800 Steve Marino, 24th District:
517-373-0113

Aaron Miller, 59th District: 517-373-0832 Brad Paquette, 78th District:
517-373-1796

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Scott VanSingel, 100th District: 517-373-7317
517-373-8835

Hank Vaupel, 47th District:

Mike Webber, 45th District: 517-373-1773
0820

Jeff Yaroch, 33rd District: 517-373-

Call to State Representatives on the House Judiciary Committee and Chairs of both Appropriations Committees:

Hello, I'm a Michigan voter and I want to encourage Representative/Senator _____ to support our Governor's school funding proposal. The cost to taxpayers will not be as great as the continued deficit in learning among Michigan's school children. Adequate funding for education is imperative to making Michigan a state where families want to come to live, work, and educate their children. Increased funding for special needs, at-risk students, and career technical education is badly needed in our state, especially since these students have been traditionally underfunded.

Call to Your Friends:

Hello, my name is _____. I'm a volunteer with Michigan Resistance.

First, I'm not calling to ask for money. I'm calling to ask for your help. Please call Representative/Senator _____ to support Governor Whitmer's School Funding Budget Proposal, which includes increases for special needs and at-risk students. This proposal adequately provides funding for all school children in the State of Michigan, especially because we are one of the lowest in the nation in providing funding for students with disabilities. It's time our legislators fix our broken school system. Thank you so much. And if you'd like to hear about local Michigan issues once a week, we can add you to our mailing list if you provide me with your email address. Thank you!

Information provided by Susan Gannon of Michigan Resistance. For more information, contact: info@MichiganResistance.org

Additional resources:

<https://www.bridgemi.com/talent-education/gov-whitmer-boost-michigan-schools-507-million-more-neediest-students>

<http://education.msu.edu/ed-policy-phd/pdf/Michigan-School-Finance-at-the-Crossroads-A-Quarter-Center-of-State-Control.pdf>
<https://www.bridgemi.com/talent-education/michigan-cut-school-funding-and-school-performance-plummeted-coincidence>