

## 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. She wants to see a 4 percent jump in state reimbursement for special education services. Economically disadvantaged and academically at-risk students would see increases, as well as student opportunities for additional career and technical services. The governor wants to see a "weighted funding formula" that would take into account the individual needs of the state's students. So far, the Republican majority legislature is not looking to implement her school funding proposals.

**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 50<sup>th</sup> 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 students. The Michigan Association of Superintendents and Administrators calls the current means of funding "extremely antiquated" and increased funding, including a weighted funding formula, is "proven to be effective and in the best interests of the students." The Michigan legislature has focused on accountability (through standardized tests) and on providing school choice, while thinking that they needn't worry about funding. Policymakers have stressed testing schools as a means to making them achieve more, but the tests only show that the schools are sinking even further compared to other states.

**What is happening?** The House Appropriations Subcommittee on School Aid and Department of Education approved a funding appropriations bill that did not include the weighted funding formula, even though it was advanced by several bipartisan groups concerned with education. The House also released a budget that did not include the weighted formula.

**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. Please call:

Senators: Ruth Johnson, 14<sup>th</sup> District: 517-373-1636

Pete Lucido, 8<sup>th</sup> District: 517-373-7670

Ed Broom, 38<sup>th</sup> District: 517-373-7840

State Representatives:

JoeBellino, 17<sup>th</sup> District: 517-373-1530

Diana Farrington, 30<sup>th</sup> District: 517-373-7768

Gary Howell, 82<sup>nd</sup> District: 517-373-1800

Aaron Miller, 59<sup>th</sup> District: 517-373-0832

Scott VanSingel, 100<sup>th</sup> District: 517-373-7317

Mike Webber, 45<sup>th</sup> District: 517-373-1773

Kim LaSata, 21<sup>th</sup> District: 517-373-6960

Michael McDonald 10<sup>th</sup> District: 517-373-7315

Lana Theis, 22<sup>nd</sup> District: 517-373-2420

Julie Calley, 87<sup>th</sup> District: 517-373-0842

Roger Hauck, 99<sup>th</sup> District: 517-373-1789

Steve Marino, 24<sup>th</sup> District: 517-373-0113

Brad Paquette, 78<sup>th</sup> District: 517-373-1796

Hank Vaupel, 47<sup>th</sup> District: 517-373-8835

Jeff Yaroeh, 33<sup>rd</sup> District: 517-373-0820

## Call to State Representatives on the House Judiciary Committee:

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.

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>