



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

JOHN D. CHERRY, JR.
LT. GOVERNOR

Creating a Well-Educated, Highly-Trained Workforce

Giving every person the tools for success in the 21st century economy

To create the jobs we need in Michigan, we must develop the best educated, most highly trained workforce on the planet. That is why Governor Jennifer Granholm has set an ambitious goal for our state: doubling the number of college graduates in Michigan. And the state has made great strides toward meeting that goal by strengthening educational opportunities for students of all ages in Michigan.

Last year, we expanded opportunities for our youngest students to attend quality pre-schools and put school districts on the path to offer full-day kindergarten. We created the 21st Century Schools Fund to help replace under-performing, drop-out factories with small, rigorous high schools that work. More than 25 school districts from the Upper Peninsula to Grand Rapids to Detroit are now working to create schools that keep high school students on the path to a diploma and prepare them to succeed in college and in a career. All Michigan high school seniors now take a college entrance exam free of charge, and all graduates are eligible for a \$4,000 Michigan Promise scholarship. Finally, we have renewed our commitment to the rigorous graduation standards that make sure every high school student in Michigan is prepared for the new world of work.

Our efforts to expand educational opportunity are not limited to the young or college-bound high school students. Michigan citizens of all ages must embrace a culture of life-long learning, preparing for careers in a new economy as well as the high-skill jobs that exist today.

In August 2007, Governor Granholm created the landmark No Worker Left Behind (NWLB) initiative, designed to provide up to two years of education to any unemployed and under-employed worker willing to train for in-demand jobs in growing and emerging industries or to become an entrepreneur. Already, more than 52,000 people have enrolled in job training through NWLB, and nearly 7,500 programs have been added or updated since the initiative began. In the year ahead, that number will grow as more Michigan workers sign up for the training they need for jobs in the new energy economy, health care, and other in-demand occupations.

This year, we must do more to help every student meet the high goals we have set for them and continue to train Michigan workers for good-paying jobs.

Algebra for All

In 2006, the Granholm administration established the Michigan Merit Curriculum, requiring every high school student to take more math, science, and language arts courses. This year, we will make sure Michigan teachers have the tools they need to help all Michigan students succeed in algebra. Building on the success of school districts like Wyandotte and Fraser, where record numbers of students take some of our toughest math classes, our Algebra for All initiative will give Michigan teachers the professional development they need to make these best practices their common practice. This on-line and face-to-face professional development initiative will begin this year.

Michigan College Access Network

Starting this year, we will create the Michigan College Access Network (MCAN), bringing together foundations, businesses and labor organizations, faith-based groups, K-12 schools, and higher education institutions to make sure all Michigan students follow the path to education after high school.

Governor Granholm will officially launch MCAN at the Governor's Education Summit in April. Working together, we will support and coordinate all of our efforts, providing leadership, technical assistance, and professional development. MCAN will also create a one-stop shop where students, families, and counselors can access the information and resources they need to plan, apply, and pay for college or technical training.

Promise Zones

At the heart of Governor Granholm's plan to grow Michigan's economy and create jobs is a commitment to ensure every Michigan citizen has access to affordable higher education. Michigan just took another step toward achieving this goal.

In her 2008 State of the State address, Governor Granholm called for legislation allowing local communities to establish Promise Zones – modeled on the Kalamazoo Promise – to send thousands of Michigan students to college and spur substantive economic development within the communities. In January, Governor Granholm signed that legislation into law, making Michigan the first state to replicate that achievement on a large scale.

This year, the new law will allow 10 communities with high poverty rates to create their own Promise Zones, capturing half of the growth in their state education tax to help pay for college educations for high school graduates who live within the communities. Promise Zone funding will provide at least an associate's degree for resident students but may cover up to a four-year degree. Successful Promise Zones will require community participation as a zone must demonstrate it has the community support to fund the first two years of the promise before the state can approve it.