



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

To attract the jobs we need to build a new economy, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm knows Michigan has to have the best-educated, most highly trained workforce on the planet. That is why the governor set an ambitious goal for our state: doubling the number of college graduates. And the state has made great strides toward meeting that goal by strengthening educational opportunities for students of all ages in Michigan.

To achieve that goal, Governor Granholm has worked to:

- strengthen Michigan's public schools to ensure every child graduates high school prepared for success in college or the workplace by establishing the nation's most rigorous high school graduation requirements;
- open the doors of higher education to every student by providing a \$4,000 Michigan Promise scholarship to every student and establishing Promise Zones across the state;
- provide Michigan workers with the training they need for the jobs of the 21st century by transforming the state's workforce training system. The governor's revolutionary No Worker Left Behind initiative has already helped more than 115,000 unemployed or underemployed workers get the training they need for in-demand jobs in growing and emerging industries or to become entrepreneurs;

Economic circumstances threaten to reverse the progress Michigan has made in educating its citizens. In the year ahead, Governor Granholm will continue to fight to invest in this critical priority. In addition, she will work to take the next steps to help every student meet the high goals we have set for them and to continue to train Michigan workers for good-paying jobs.

Restoring the Michigan Promise

Last year, Michigan took a significant step backward in achieving our goal of doubling the number of college graduates when the Legislature adopted a budget that eliminated the Michigan Promise scholarship for nearly 100,000 families who were expecting a \$4,000 scholarship to help pay for college this year. We will never achieve economic prosperity if we sacrifice the needs of our children along the way.

This year, the governor announced she will offer a budget which restores the Michigan Promise to ensure that every child has the opportunity to at least earn a two-year college degree. The new Michigan Promise scholarship will have an expanded focus as well: keeping our young people here in Michigan after they have successfully earned their degrees. Details of the new Michigan Promise scholarship will be included in the governor's budget presentation on February 11, 2010.

Expanding No Worker Left Behind

Governor Granholm launched No Worker Left Behind (NWLB) in 2007 as an innovative plan to train 100,000 citizens in three years for jobs in high-demand occupations and emerging industries. Not only did the program achieve that goal in just over two years, it has transformed the way we think about and deliver worker training in Michigan.

NWLB clearly establishes the link between postsecondary education and success in the workplace, and it gives workers the opportunity to acquire the skills they need to win good-paying jobs in today's economy. By restructuring state and federal funds used for workforce development, NWLB provides up to two years of free tuition at any Michigan community college, university or other approved training program for qualifying participants. Enrollment in community colleges has increased an amazing 45 percent over the last couple of years, due largely to the success of NWLB.

In 2010, NWLB will expand its focus to target the hundreds of thousands of adults in Michigan who lack the basic education skills needed to succeed in technical training. Ten new learning labs in the metro Detroit area will help provide tutoring and computer-assisted learning to prepare these workers for training success.

Running the Race to the Top

In January, Governor Granholm signed groundbreaking legislation to reform Michigan's education system and make the state eligible to compete for a share of the \$4 billion in President Barack Obama's Race to the Top initiative funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The Race to the Top reforms clearly establish the importance of student achievement and make students' academic growth a key element in evaluating teachers, principals, schools and districts. The new legislation authorizes the state to intervene in the lowest-performing schools, expands the number of high-quality charter schools while closing low-performing charters, requires administrators to be certified, requires an annual evaluation of teachers and administrators using data on student development, creates alternative routes to teacher certification, and raises the dropout age to 18.

To implement these important changes, the state will undertake a national search for the right person to lead this reform effort, identify the lowest-performing schools that require intervention and develop the process through which the best and brightest can receive certification to teach in Michigan classrooms. These steps, along with many others the state will take this year, will ensure that regardless of the outcome of the competition for additional federal funding, Michigan students will win the "Race to the Top."

For more information on Michigan's Race to the Top initiative, visit www.michigan.gov/mde.