



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT

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Back-to-School Message from State Superintendent Brian Whiston

It's always exciting to get back to school. New teachers for the kids. New kids for the teachers. Even new schools for some!

Every new school year opens with great hope, energy, and anticipation. Everyone starts fresh.

I want to thank the teachers and administrators for all they do for our kids and our state. It's challenging to reach all your students and help them learn and grow both academically and personally. It's a tremendous task and you do it with sincere purpose and passion.

As we continue Michigan's drive to become a Top 10 education state in 10 years, the beginning of a new school year is a great opportunity to look at how we're doing and provide everyone with a chance to improve.

It is continuing the innovations already in place and beginning new strategies that have shown success for other schools. It's integrating deeper learning efforts for students and having students really own their learning – taking ownership of their individual pathways to success.

We must set a tone and culture of respect for others and carry that inside and outside of our classrooms. Our country is witnessing some alarming clashes between races and beliefs. Hate speech, harassment, and bullying are not acceptable in any manner or form. Our schools must be safe havens for our children and teachers – free from hate; free from intimidation; free from bullying; and free from fear.

Our schools, our communities, and our nation are better when we respect and help each other grow and succeed together. Let's make our schools the centers of scholarship, where students are happy, healthy, and eager to learn.

I will continue to visit school districts around the state this year to celebrate your successes and see the innovative ideas being implemented. That, by far, is the best part of my job as State Superintendent.

This is going to be a great school year! Let's build a bright future together for Michigan.

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