



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

**State Board of Education  
Resolution on Governor Snyder's Budget**

The Michigan Constitution invests the State Board of Education (SBE) with *"leadership and general supervision over all public education,"* and states the SBE *"shall serve as the general planning and coordinating body for all public education, including higher education, and shall advise the legislature as to the financial requirements in connection therewith."*

Pursuant to its Constitutional duties, the State Board of Education made unanimous, bi-partisan recommendations to the Governor and Legislature on February 8, 2011 regarding *Education Improvement and Reform Priorities*. Included in these recommendations were a description of the threshold of needed educational services and means of paying for them, consistent with the Governor's call for a "pre-natal-to lifelong learning" education system. Subsequently Governor Snyder released his proposed 2012 and 2013 Budget proposals.

We applaud the Governor's commitment to a balanced and sustainable budget, asking for "shared sacrifice" from all stakeholders, pushing schools and educational institutions to find greater efficiencies and cost-savings including in school district health care and pension systems. We also applaud his efforts to do so respecting collective bargaining and public employee unions.

We endorse the concept of a unified education vision that includes pre-K, K-12 and higher education, as a potential enabler of coherent and consistent attention to the important priority of increasing education and skill attainment over the lifetime of Michigan's citizens.

We do, however, believe the budget as proposed does not yet provide the financial requirements to fund "the threshold elements of the P-20 education system needed in Michigan to provide individual opportunity and economic success" as stated in our February 8, recommendations to the Governor and Legislature. These elements are:

- Universally available pre-school for all families of three-and four-year-olds who desire it
- All day kindergarten similarly available for all children
- K-12 state aid at funding levels sufficient to protect quality classroom instruction and direct educational services
- Financial support to make two years or more of post-secondary education or technical training available to all citizens
- Higher education operational support for Michigan's universities and community colleges at a level consistent with peer states

We encourage the Governor and the Legislature as they finalize the budget, and develop future year funding plans to provide the financial support needed for these core elements that constitute a quality Michigan education for all citizens.

Approved on March 8, 2011

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