



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

August 27, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman 

SUBJECT: Approval of State Board of Education and Michigan Department of Education Input to the State Aid Act Rewrite

The Executive Office has announced a project designed to propose a Michigan education funding law to replace the 1979 State Aid Act with a modern education financing law that reflects the present structure of Michigan's public school system and allows for future changes reflecting the Governor's vision for public education.

The recommendations for the State Board of Education to consider making to the Governor regarding the State Aid Act Rewrite are taken verbatim from the Michigan State Board of Education and Michigan Department of Education Goal and Reform Priorities approved on June 12, 2012. Only the State Board of Education's Reform Priorities that would impact the State Aid Act are included in the recommendations. These priorities will prompt valuable discussion as part of the deliberations to rewrite the State Aid Act.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education submit the attached State Aid Act Rewrite Recommendations to the Executive Office for discussion during the State Aid Act Rewrite Project.

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**MICHIGAN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
AND MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**STATE AID ACT REWRITE
RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Improved Student Achievement Through Innovation

- a) Support "any time, any place, any way, any pace" initiatives that help schools to personalize learning for every student.
- b) Increase access to quality distance and blended learning options.
- c) Support, and remove barriers for every student to participate in early post-secondary learning opportunities, including dual enrollment, early college, advanced placement, technical and career learning.
- d) Identify and support successful interventions for turning around low-performing schools.
- e) Close academic achievement gaps, with an initial focus on rapidly improving the academic outcomes of African-American males for whom data show are Michigan's persistently lowest achieving subgroup.

2. Student Achievement-based System of Schools

- a) Implement a system of State Board of Education rewards for High Performing and High Progressing Schools.
- b) Develop policies that incent and reward school performance on outcomes, including improved student achievement proficiency and growth and reduced need for post-secondary remediation.

3. Early Childhood Education and Care

- a) Continue the consolidation of early childhood education and care programs and resources into the Office of Great Start as well as advocate for enhanced early childhood opportunities.
- b) Implement the Great Start to Quality, a system of progressive standards that identifies higher standards and higher levels of quality for all licensed early learning and development programs and unlicensed subsidized providers.
- c) Initiate a Kindergarten Entry Status assessment to identify children's learning and developmental levels at kindergarten entry.
- d) Increase access to high quality early learning and development programs for those children with the highest needs prior to kindergarten entry.