



# Building a Bright Future

## Recommendations for How to Improve Michigan's Education System

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# Goals of Research:

1. Examine Michigan's recent K–12 performance
2. If Michigan has been underperforming, investigate why
3. Make recommendations to improve the system

# Michigan's Weak Economy is Likely Affecting Education Performance



Increase in **poverty**  
among Michigan  
families



Increase in **fiscal**  
**pressure** on schools

# Building Blocks to a Bright Future

**Invest Early**

**Focus on Teaching**

**Spend Efficiently**

**Connect  
Postsecondary**

# Invest Early: What's Next?

- **Invest in evidence-based programs** and help more at-risk young children arrive at kindergarten ready to learn:
  - Home visiting
  - Access to medical homes
  - High quality child care
  - Preschool for three-year-olds
- **Build the evaluation infrastructure** and track our investments against outcomes
  - Extend longitudinal data systems to early childhood programs
  - Put in place a universal kindergarten entry assessment

# Focus on Teaching:

## What's Next?

- **Enact teacher evaluation legislation** and ensure teachers receive feedback and support and that accountability systems are fair and research-based
- **Provide more support for teaching new standards** so all teachers are prepared to help their students meet new, more rigorous expectations
- **Provide more opportunities for teacher leaders to inform policy and support implementation of policy** so Michigan's policy and implementation is grounded in what's happening in classrooms across the state

# Spend Efficiently: What's Next?

- **Fix funding formulas to better align revenues and costs** for districts facing declining enrollment
- **Allocate more funding to students with more need** so districts serving the highest need students (e.g., at-risk, English language learners, etc.) are better positioned to serve them well (technically called “weighting funding formulas”)
- **Enhance formulas to better match revenues and costs for new choice options** so we can encourage and support new options (online learning, dual enrollment) without hurting traditional providers

# Connect Postsecondary: What's Next?

- **Increase the number of guidance counselors in Michigan to match the national average** because all students need access to high-quality support, especially when they're selecting a postsecondary option
- **Increase the opportunities to earn college credit in high school** for all students

# Longer-term: Work Strategically

## Invest Early

Coordinate programs across agencies to ensure every child arrives at kindergarten healthy and ready to learn.

## Focus on Teaching

Develop a comprehensive strategy to recruit, prepare, support, pay, and retain highly effective teachers so all students have access to effective instruction and support.

## Spend Efficiently

Target resources to support students we know have the highest needs and programs we know work so Michigan can get the most out of our investment in education.

## Connect Postsecondary

Help all students identify their future goals and achieve them so more Michiganders are leaving high school prepared to tackle career and college.



# Questions?