

**GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM**

Radio Address – Bullying and curriculum legislation

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Hello, this is Governor Jennifer Granholm.

Nothing is more important to securing the future of our state than giving all of our children a world-class education. And the recipe for success when it comes to our schools is straightforward.

First, you need excellent teachers, who can give our kids the skills and the inspiration they need to thrive. In Michigan, we are blessed with some of the best educators in America, and I certainly thank them for all their hard work.

The second ingredient to our recipe for success for schools is that great schools need the necessary resources. And that's why my administration has increased school funding to record levels, in order to put more resources into every classroom, and to ensure that every school in Michigan is a great place to learn.

Third, every school should be a safe, positive learning environment. We can create that environment for our students by passing tough, new anti-bullying legislation that I called for in my State of the State Address.

Research in the Journal of the American Medical Association suggests that one out of every three students – one out of every three – in grades six through ten is the victim of schoolyard bullying.

While some school districts in Michigan have worked to address this issue, it's important to require that every district have policies in place to discourage bullying – and also to require that our teachers receive training in how to maintain classroom discipline.

I'm pleased that we're taking the steps to put new anti-bullying policies on the books. I look forward to supporting the legislation that has been introduced by Representative Anderson and Senator Thomas. And I urge the Legislature to move quickly to ensure that every classroom in Michigan is a safe and nurturing environment for our kids.

I want to commend the Senate and the House for acting with urgency on another education priority.

Both chambers of the Legislature have taken action to implement a new rigorous curriculum in Michigan, which would give students in every school district the math and science education they need to compete in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

This is a vital step to building our 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce, and it's another component of successful schools. I expect Michigan's Legislature to complete their work on this critical measure before the end of this month, so we can implement new curriculum reforms by next school year.

Thank you for listening. [404]