

Michigan ESSA: External Advisory Committee Fact Sheet



Team Lead

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Information

The External Advisory Committee:

- Includes representatives from the legislature, governor’s office, higher education, the business community, and state advocacy organizations
- Meets monthly to review ESSA plan ideas and concepts as they become available
- Provides guidance and feedback, and suggests changes or additions to ideas and concepts as they emerge

Purpose

This committee is committed to:

- Being the catalyst for two-way communication between the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) internal work teams and key education stakeholders in the field
- Offering diverse, real-world perspectives on the feasibility and strength of ideas being explored by Action Teams
- Promoting and facilitating shared understanding among their constituent groups of key concepts of Michigan’s ESSA plan development
- Creating relationships, systems, and opportunities to keep stakeholders engaged through the implementation process and beyond

Opportunities

This action team specifically has the opportunity to:

- Assist the MDE in their efforts to write a comprehensive, feasible plan under the Every Student Succeeds Act
- Help shape the state’s vision for ESSA and its alignment with Michigan’s Top 10 in 10 vision and goals
- Ensure that Michigan’s ESSA Plan reflects the best thinking of all stakeholder groups
- Generate ownership of and support for the changes initiated by Michigan’s ESSA implementation

Members

First Name	Last Name	Organization	Position
Jim	Ananich	Michigan Senate	Senate Democratic Leader
Amber	Arellano	Education Trust Midwest	Executive Director
Natasha	Baker	State School Reform/Redesign Office (SRO)	State Reform/Redesign Officer
Sandy	Baruah	Detroit Regional Chamber	President & CEO
Helen	Brish	Michigan Education Association (MEA)	Field Services Consultant
Brian	Broderick	Michigan Association of Nonpublic Schools (MANS)	Executive Director
Allie	Bush Idema	Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce	Director of Government Affairs
Jamie	Callahan	Michigan House of Representatives	Legislative Director - Office of Representative Phil Potvin
Michele	Corey	Michigan's Children	Vice President for Programs
Kevin	Cotter	Michigan House of Representatives	Speaker of the House
Harvey	Czerwinski	Macomb ISD	Testing and Assessment Consultant
Laura	Ferrans	Michigan Association of Teacher Educators (MATE)	President
Chris	Glass	West Michigan Talent Triangle	
Doug	Greer	Ottawa Area ISD	Director of Instructional Services
Tim	Greimel	Michigan House of Representatives	House Democratic Leader
Brian	Gutman	Education Trust Midwest	Director Public Engagement
Michael	Hansen	Michigan Community College Association (MCCA)	President
Goeff	Hansen	Michigan Senate	Senator
Jennifer	Headley-Nordman	Michigan Association of School Psychologists (MASP)	
Hoon-Yung	Hopgood	Michigan Senate	Senator
Tom	Howell	Michigan Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI)	Executive Director
Gilda	Jacobs	Michigan League for Public Policy (MLPP)	President
Ruthann	Jaquette	Michigan PTA	President
Brandy	Johnson	Michigan College Access Network (MCAN)	Executive Director
Donna	Jones	Michigan Association of Administrators of Special Education (MAASE)	President
Betty	Kirby	Michigan Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (MACTE)	President
David	Knezek	Michigan Senate	Senator
Paul	Liabenow	Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association (MEMSPA)	Executive Director

Barbara	Markle	Michigan State University - K-12 Outreach	Assistant Dean
David	Martell	Michigan School Business Officials (MSBO)	Executive Director
Arlan	Meekhoff	Michigan Senate	Senate Majority Leader
William	Miller	Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators (MAISA)	Executive Director
Bob	Murphy	Michigan Association of State Universities (MASU)	Director of University Relations and Policy
Gary	Naeyaert	Great Lakes Education Project (GLEP)	Executive Director
Kristy	Pagan	Michigan House of Representatives	State Representative
Phil	Pavlov	Michigan Senate	Senator
Amanda	Price	Michigan House of Representatives	State Representative
Dan	Quisenberry	Michigan Association of Public School Academies (MAPSA)	President
Sally	Rae	Directors and Representatives of Teacher Education Programs (DARTEP)	Chair
Sarah	Roberts	Michigan House of Representatives	State Representative
James	Rooks	Calvin College	Dean of Education
Paul	Salah	Wayne RESA	Associate Superintendent Educational Services
Tyler	Sawher	Office of Governor Rick Snyder	Senior Policy Advisor
Bill	Smith	Kent ISD	Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services
Tim	Sowton	Business Leaders for Michigan	VP for Government Affairs & Public Policy
Peter	Spadafore	Michigan Independent Colleges & Universities (MICU)	Vice President
Lincoln	Stocks	AFT-Michigan	Co-Chair K-12 Teachers Committee President, East Detroit Federation of Teachers
Kevin	Stotts	Talent 2025	President
Rich	Studley	Michigan Chamber of Commerce	President & CEO
Mary	Sutton	Michigan Afterschool Partnership	
Ray	Telman	Middle Cities Education Association	Executive Director
Dan	Varner	Excellent Schools Detroit	CEO
Chris	Wigent	Michigan Association of School Administrators (MASA)	Executive Director
Don	Wotruba	Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB)	Executive Director
Wendy	Zdeb	Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP)	Executive Director
Adam	Zemke	Michigan House of Representatives	State Representative