



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*. The Board also made unanimous, bi-partisan recommendations for *Budget Priorities for 2012 Budget* on December 9, 2011. http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-5373_5379-267577--,00.html

Included in these recommendations were a description of the threshold of needed educational services consistent with the Governor's call for a "pre-natal-to lifelong learning" education system.

We welcome the Governor's 2012 budget proposals to begin re-investing in public education. We appreciate the Governor's budget is responsive to some of the important strategic investment priorities recommended by the State Board of Education and the Superintendent/Michigan Department of Education:

We continue to support strong accountability reforms that hold students and teachers to high standards, and that encourage schools and districts to find efficiencies and cost-savings in non-instructional services, that can then better support classroom learning.

We remain concerned that in the context of strong accountability demands we are not yet providing the financial resources to support "the threshold elements of the P-20 education system needed in Michigan to provide individual opportunity and economic success" as stated in our prior recommendations to the Governor and Legislature. These elements include:

- Universally available preschool for families of all three-year-old and four-year-old children , and kindergarten available for all children;
- K-12 State Aid at funding level sufficient to provide quality instruction;

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- A State commitment to quality, affordable post-secondary education that allows all citizens to achieve the needed new minimum threshold of a postsecondary education or technical training credential (as defined by Lt. Governor's Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth [2004]); and
- Higher Education operational support for Michigan's universities and community colleges at a level competitive with peer states and national state average for higher education support.

Appreciating there is legitimate debate about the scale of financial resources required to deliver "quality instruction", and the very definition of education quality itself; the State Board of Education during 2012 will contribute to the public understanding and inform future budgets and decision-making by the Governor and Legislature by:

- **Making Recommendations to the "Quality Schools" Legislative Committee**, based on the MDE framework developed for the federal waiver request from ESEA/NCLB provisions.
- **Executing a Stakeholder-Informed Study on the Financial Requirements for Public Education** approved by the SBE in December, 2011; that will revise and update recommendations concerning the financial requirements of education to inform the Governor and Legislature as they develop budgets for the 2013-14 fiscal year. This project will:
 - Identify anew the key elements and requirements for an effective public education system, P-20;
 - Identify the financial resources required to deliver this education; and
 - Identify the combination of cost-savings/reforms, and additional revenues needed to deliver the education required.

We trust these actions will provide additional important understanding of the financial needs for the quality education system Michigan learners need and deserve.

Approved February 14, 2012