



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** May 13, 2020

**TO:** Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents  
Public School Academy Directors

**FROM:** Dr. Michael F. Rice, State Superintendent 

**SUBJECT:** State Board of Education Resolution Regarding Funding to Preserve Education Services for Children

The State Board of Education yesterday adopted a [resolution](#) urging Michigan's state legislature and the Michigan Congressional delegation to support – actively, individually, and collectively – any bill to preserve educational services to Michigan school children that have been threatened as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The State Board of Education also is asking you in the state education community to join them by sharing your related thoughts with members of the state legislature and with members of the Michigan Congressional delegation.

Over a two-month period, the coronavirus has resulted in 47,138 confirmed positive cases and 4,551 deaths in Michigan as of May 10, and 1,323,028 confirmed cases and 79,124 deaths in the United States.

This public health emergency has had adverse economic and educational impacts on states across the country, especially on those states with significant numbers of individuals who have gotten sick from and/or died from the virus.

The administration's preliminary revenue estimates indicate that there will be shortfalls of \$1 billion to \$3 billion this year and \$1 billion to \$4 billion next year in the state's general fund and school aid fund combined. These numbers will be updated at the May 15 revenue estimating conference. A revenue shortfall of \$1.5 billion would require a cut in excess of \$1,000 per pupil, all else being equal.

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No state with significant numbers of individuals who have gotten sick from and/or died from the virus can address the attendant effects without federal support. Congress has acknowledged this fact with the enactment of COVID-19 relief bills in the last two months, and while these measures are helpful and appreciated, they are insufficient to shield our children and families from profound harm.

The State Board of Education's adopted resolution reads: "No child asked to grow up in a pandemic and, to the absolute extent possible, no child should be harmed in his or her education by the fact that he or she did grow up in part during a pandemic."

On behalf of the State Board of Education, your voices have an effect on your state and federal legislators. I know you are committed to advocating for your students and the educators who support them daily.

I urge you to advocate for federal funds that help us preserve educational services to children in the midst of a pandemic.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance  
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors