



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
STATEMENT ON DETROIT EDUCATION PROPOSAL**

The children of Detroit deserve and are entitled to a quality education. The State Board of Education agrees that it is time to instill a sense of normalcy, stability and respect to the educational framework in Detroit. We welcome a public dialogue on how best to improve educational outcomes for students.

The State Board of Education eagerly awaits the release of draft legislation depicting the Governor's announced plan for Detroit schools. Having been briefed on the direction of proposed legislation, the State Board of Education shares the following areas of support, and recommendations for improvement in the plan:

**Quality Schools** – the focus must remain on providing a quality education for all children of Detroit, regardless of economic status, disability, language barriers and other challenges. Improvement is always a difficult task, but is even more so under conditions that create instability in leadership, enrollment, services, and access. With 95 Detroit Public Schools (DPS) schools, 97 charter schools, and 15 Education Achievement Authority schools, Detroit parents have plenty of "choices." What they often lack are easily-accessible, quality choices. We support proposals that better ensure quality education across all public schools, and the ability of all Detroit children and parents to access them.

**Debt Reduction** – The State of Michigan has had direct oversight of DPS for over a decade, during a time of growing deficits. The State Board of Education supports proposals whereby the State assumes responsibility for paying off this debt before it grows larger without penalizing other schools and students in Michigan.

**Governance** – Detroit Public Schools has been under state control for nearly 15 years, and currently is experiencing its fourth Emergency Manager. In addition, 15 former DPS schools are now controlled by the state-created Education Achievement Authority. The current plan calls for additional state control in the form of a majority-Governor appointed Detroit Education Commission, as well as an initial majority-Governor appointed Detroit Community School District Board. The State Board of Education is concerned about the continuing lack of citizen oversight over their own schools. We support proposals that provide democratic governance and oversight of Detroit's public schools that is educationally and politically accountable to Detroit residents.

Adopted November 10, 2015

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