



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 21, 2020

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

FROM: Michael F. Rice, Ph.D., State Superintendent of Public Instruction 

SUBJECT: Urging Congress to Preserve Educational Services to Michigan School Children

At its May 2020 monthly meeting, the State Board of Education adopted a [resolution](#) to urge 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 this pandemic.

State revenue estimates made last Friday established that there will be a shortfall of \$6.2 billion in state revenues through next year, including a reduction of \$1.2 billion in the School Aid Fund this fiscal year and \$1.1 billion for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. You know the profound impact that cuts of this magnitude will have on our schools and on our children. There is little chance that a shortfall of that size could be made up at the state level, and certainly not quickly.

In its adopted resolution, the State Board of Education urged members of the state education community to share their related thoughts with members of the state legislature and with members of the Michigan Congressional delegation and to urge their national associations to share similarly with members of Congress.

Please work with your local boards to adopt similar resolutions as that of the State Board of Education. To tailor your individual resolutions to your individual local circumstances is perfectly legitimate and helpful. Your associations and the Michigan Department of Education are working hard with elected officials in Lansing and Washington to advocate on your behalf. We need your partnership in this advocacy with resolutions of your own and with outreach to members of Congress and state legislators, as well. Thank you for your work on behalf of our 1.5 million public school children.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

CASANDRA E. ULBRICH – PRESIDENT • PAMELA PUGH – VICE PRESIDENT
MICHELLE FECTEAU – SECRETARY • TOM MCMILLIN – TREASURER
TIFFANY D. TILLEY – NASBE DELEGATE • JUDITH PRITCHETT
LUPE RAMOS-MONTIGNY • NIKKI SNYDER