

## Appendix II: About the Commission

In 2016, Governor Rick Snyder created the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education Commission to analyze top-performing education systems and make bold recommendations for transforming Michigan's education system in Executive Order 2016-06.

The 25-member Commission included representatives from the education, business, government, and nonprofit communities. All Commissioners shared a deep commitment to improving public education and brought expertise in local, regional, and state education system design. The Commission was comprised of 16 gubernatorial appointees, four legislative appointees, the SBE president(s), and four state department directors. The Commission was chaired by Dr. Thomas Haas, president of Grand Valley State University. For a full list of Commissioners, please see the page titled "Commission Members."

The Commission met eight times as a committee of the whole between June 2016 and February 2017. The Commission started its work by grounding members in Michigan's existing system and best practices from high-performing states and nations. A key component of this work was presentations from the following state and national experts: Natasha Baker, State School Reform Officer, Michigan Department of Technology, Management, and Budget; Chris Gabrieli, cofounder and CEO of Empower Schools; Bill Guest, president and chief solutions architect of Metrics Reporting, Inc.; Kati Haycock, CEO of The Education Trust; Robbie Jameson, budget administrator for the State of Michigan; Venessa Keesler, deputy superintendent, educator, student, and school support with the Michigan Department of Education; and Marc Tucker, president and CEO of the National Center on Education and the Economy.

After the grounding phase, the Commission drafted a vision for the future. Based on this vision, the Commission formed three workgroups to allow for more robust analysis and debate. These workgroups were focused on three broad content areas: accountability, funding, and structure and governance. Each Commissioner served on at least one workgroup. Workgroups met dozens of times during the life of the Commission to further analyze high-performing systems, better understand the challenges facing Michigan, and craft recommendations to create a world-class education system.

At the same time, Commissioners engaged with parents and community members through listening tour events hosted with schools in Detroit, Grand Rapids, Traverse City, and the Upper Peninsula. A full summary of these engagement efforts see, "Appendix III: Public Engagement Summary."

Recommendations were then shared with the full Commission for review. Each element of the report was subject to approval by the Commission, including the vision, guiding principles, key strategies, goals, and priorities. The Commission required a high level of consensus support to adopt each element included in this report. Commissioners believed the power of the report was in a diverse set of stakeholders coalescing around a shared vision and strategy for the future. The Commission strived to craft a plan that could drive education policymaking for the next 30 years.