

2023-2024

Annual Report





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Note: The funds mentioned in this annual report refer to fiscal year (FY) 2024 allocations, and the sections refer to those in the State School Aid or the MDE budget.



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

Welcome to the 2023-24 Michigan Department of Education Annual Report!

It is always a pleasure to reflect on the previous year and share the efforts of the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and school districts in supporting Michigan's Top 10 Strategic Education Plan and by extension Michigan's children. Approved by the State Board of Education (SBE) in August 2020, the plan provides focused direction so the state education community can improve education for Michigan's 1.4 million schoolchildren.

In the past year, we have seen many improvements that benefit children, parents, and communities. While most of the credit goes to local schools, their great strides were aided enormously by FY23 and FY24 budgets from the legislature and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer that passed with advocacy from the SBE and MDE. Four-year graduation rates increased to the second highest in the state's history (behind only 2020 when requirements were relaxed due to the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic). Michigan's Great Start Readiness Program continued to be ranked first in the nation in quality while moving up to No. 6 in funding. Daily, more than 850,000 public school children ate lunch and 474,000 ate breakfast at school as Michigan, for the first time, made the meals free for all public school students. From May 2019 to September 2023, Michigan ranked second in the nation in education job recoveries, to help to address the teacher shortage.

MDE staff worked to pass critical literacy/dyslexia legislation into law to assist children struggling to learn to read, and the department will continue to push to provide more support for these students. During the year, the number of Michigan educators registering for LETRS literacy training on teaching the science of reading increased to over 7,500.

MDE will work tirelessly to assist in achieving the goals of the state's strategic education plan. We owe that to our children and our teachers, administrators, parents, grandparents, guardians, and community members who serve as our partners in this critical work.

Let's all continue to strive to make Michigan a Top 10 education state!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael F. Rice".

Michael F. Rice, Ph.D.
State Superintendent

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Michigan's Top 10 Strategic Education Plan

Each year, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) shares the various efforts undertaken to advance education outcomes in the state. These efforts are driven by [Michigan's Top 10 Strategic Education Plan](#). Approved in August 2020 by the State Board of Education, the **state's strategic education plan** has **eight goals** and a variety of metrics to help monitor Michigan's progress. The two **resource upstream goals** addressing teacher shortage and adequate and equitable school funding (goals 7 and 8) **help drive all other goals**. The **developmental upstream goals** addressing the expansion of early childhood education, the improvement of early literacy, and the improvement of health, safety, and wellness (goals 1, 2, and 3) **help drive all other downstream goals**, which include secondary school program expansion, graduation rates, and post-secondary credential rates (goals 4, 5, and 6).

This past year, MDE, Michigan's Intermediate School Districts (ISDs) and Local Education Agencies (LEAs), both traditional public school districts and public school academies, and Michigan's education partners spent significant time and effort to improve student outcomes consistent with the state's strategic education plan goals.

This report highlights many efforts that MDE supported individually or in partnership with ISDs, LEAs, and education organizations.

Goals

1. Expand early childhood learning opportunities
2. Improve early literacy achievement
3. Improve the health, safety, and wellness of all learners
4. Expand secondary learning opportunities for all students
5. Increase the percentage of all students who graduate from high school
6. Increase the percentage of adults with a post-secondary credential
7. Increase the numbers of certified teachers in areas of shortage
8. Provide adequate and equitable school funding



Signing of Historic Literacy/Dyslexia Law by Gov. Whitmer. Pictured (L to R): State Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice; Legislative Analyst Olivia Ponte; Director of the Michigan MTSS Center Dr. Kim St. Martin; Legislative Liaison Dr. Sheryl Kennedy; Gov. Gretchen Whitmer; Deputy Superintendent of Division of Assessment, School Improvement, and Systems Support Dr. Delsa D. Chapman; Assistant Director of Educational Supports Dr. Jen Saylor; Education Consultant Manager DeNesha Rawls-Smith; and Director of Educational Supports Dr. Corrine E. Edwards.



Goal 1: Expand Early Childhood Learning Opportunities

Participating in early childhood learning opportunities will strengthen a child's cognitive and social development.

- Recommended to the state legislature and governor in FY23 that the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) student eligibility be expanded in FY24 to allow more children to participate in the program and permit the flexibility to include 5 days/week and 36 weeks/year (all recommendations were approved).
- Administered section 32d GSRP funding, which helps provide high-quality preschool to children at risk of low educational attainment.

GREAT NEWS!
Michigan's GSRP continues to rank #1 nationally in quality and is #6 in funding!

MDE is committed to supporting early childhood education because it is critical to successful K-12 education.

- Assisted in administering the \$6 million increase in Early Childhood Block Grants, which helps provide funding to low-income families for various early childhood education needs.
- Assisted in the transition of Great Start staff from MDE to the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP), effective December 2023, due to Executive Order 2023-6.

Goal 2: Improve Early Literacy Achievement

Literacy sets the foundation for learning and is the cornerstone for all future education. By fostering early literacy skills, students are more likely to achieve greater academic success and graduate with better academic and employment opportunities.

- Continued a partnership with [Lexia Learning®](#) to **administer and provide training in Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS), LETRS for Early Childhood Educators (LETRS EC), and LETRS for Administrators professional learning**. LETRS teaches classroom practices backed by the science of reading and strengthens instruction in phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, writing, and language. MDE also administered the \$10 million available through Section 35a(10) for educators and coaches working with students in grades Pre-K – 6 and all special education endorsed educators working with students in grades Pre-K – 12.
- Coordinated, in partnership with the [Michigan Multi-Tiered System of Supports Technical Assistance \(MiMTSS TA\) Center](#), the **2024 Diversity in Literature Symposium: The How and Why of Literacy** on March 7, 2024, at the Lansing Center. This in-person literacy event had **600 attendees** for educators and administrators of all grade levels. There were **25 sessions** held, including instructional strategies, family engagement, literacy beyond the classroom, diverse literacy resources, and research-based literacy practices. Additionally, **Ifa Bayeza** provided an original performance to highlight experiences from her childhood. **Dr. Anita Archer** inspired the crowd by sharing how to improve instruction through direct instruction.

GREAT NEWS! Thus far, over 2,500 Michigan educators have completed, and over 7,500 Michigan educators are actively engaged in one of the LETRS professional learning options offered under state aid.



- Worked with **Benton Harbor Area Schools and Berrien RESA to create and install diverse classroom libraries in all their preschool to 5th-grade classrooms (32 total)** while their students were on spring break. Diverse classroom libraries help educators create learning environments and experiences that deliver high-quality literacy instruction to all students, including those from different ethnicities and religions, those who speak other languages, and those with different strengths. Families and teachers selected books to reflect the students and community. View highlights on the MLK Academy: [MLK Academy highlight video](#) and [Education Counts Michiana | PBS Michiana - WNIT](#).
- Continued to support educators in fulfilling their responsibility to teach the full breadth of U.S. and world history by **offering comprehensive history webinars**. Virtual attendees from all over the state joined. During the school year (SY) 23-24, **new webinars included *The Art of History in African American Life and Culture, Women's Anti-Slavery Activism, and Using Literacy to Enhance Social Studies***. Additionally, [Michigan Virtual](#) now offers webinars as learning modules, and educators can earn SCECHS at no cost.
- Administered the United States Department of Education (USED) [Comprehensive Literacy State Development \(CLSD\) Grant](#) to advance literacy skills for children from birth through grade 12, including students with limited English proficiency and students with disabilities. Five LEAs received the award: **Benton Harbor Area Schools, Detroit Public Schools Community District, Flint Community Schools, Muskegon Heights Public School Academy System, and Pontiac School District**. Each LEA receives approximately \$3 million over a five-year grant term; this was year four. MDE staff met monthly with each LEA individually and with all the LEAs in a Community of Practice and participated annually in a site visit with each LEA.
- Administered the **\$140 million** in Section 35j of early literacy funding to **ISDs and LEAs to improve literacy instructional practices** by investing in quality, research-based best practices and professional learning. MDE had 419 applications for the funding.
- Awarded **\$150 million of the** Section 23g MI Kids Back on Track grant **to 512 LEAs**. The funds are designed to address unfinished learning, get students to grade-level standards, provide additional academic assistance to students at risk of falling behind their peers, or help high school students prepare for post-secondary education. The primary areas funded were expanded learning and tutoring.
- Assisted in identifying **Allen Park High School Library Media Center as the state's 21st Century Model School Library (SL 21) award recipient** for the SY23-24. Allen Park was selected due to its focus on engaging students and teachers where they are and bringing resources and activities to them—including over 200 collaborative lessons last year with teaching colleagues, interactive book displays, Hour of Code, and March is Reading Month programming.
- Awarded the [Seal of Biliteracy](#)—an award given by a school, district, or state in recognition of students who have studied and attained proficiency in two or more languages by high school graduation—to **over 1,911 students from 125 LEAs, including 15 new LEAs, across 54 different languages**.
- Coordinated the development of [new preparation standards for Disciplinary Literacy for Middle Grades and High School content area teachers](#) (approved by the State Board of Education in March 2024). These standards define the knowledge and skills that all secondary teachers should have to support adolescents' literacy achievement across content areas.



- Coordinated the development of [new preparation standards for School Librarians](#) (approved by the State Board of Education in June 2024). These standards define the knowledge and skills school librarians should have to support PK-12 students' information, research, media, and digital literacy development and collaborate with PK-12 teachers to design engaging literacy instruction.
- Requested that schools across the state submit their **March is Reading Month** plans and celebrations so the information could be shared statewide to motivate all districts to get students excited about reading. All submissions were entered into a random drawing. **The winner, Grant Middle School**, received 50 books from the MDE Authors of Color and Diverse Classroom Library book list.
- Created the **MDE Reads Initiative**, which invited LEAs to request MDE staff to be guest readers using books from the MDE mobile Diverse Classroom Library; **52 LEAs requested readers**, and MDE received positive feedback from the students, such as [that book character] "looks like me!"



Dr. Rice reading to elementary students at Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools during March is Reading Month.



Goal 3: Improve the Health, Safety, and Wellness of all learners

Students need strong emotional, behavioral, and social support and safe and healthy environments to benefit fully from the educational process.

- Advocated for and coordinated the inaugural [Michigan School Meals program](#), which provided Michigan's 1.4 million public school children access to a free breakfast and a free lunch, ensuring students were ready to learn and not worried about eating. Funding for the program was available through the state's School Aid Budget and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program.
- Continued coordinating the **USDA Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)**, known in [Michigan as Meet Up and Eat Up](#). This program serves meals daily at more than 1,400 locations in the state throughout the summer, so students do not go hungry when they are not in school.
- Assisted in **expanding Rural Non-Congregate (RNC) meals** to nearly 200 eligible 'rural' locations all over Michigan. This initiative allows summer meals to leave the traditional congregate meal site. It offers up to 7 days' worth of meals per child at a time, which limits the transportation needs and costs of families in rural Michigan associated with summer meals.
- Implemented, in partnership with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the new permanent [Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer program](#) authorized by USDA. This program provided eligible children \$40 per month, or \$120 total for the summer, in food benefits loaded on existing or new Bridge Cards. It is estimated that nearly 850,000 Michigan students were eligible.

GREAT NEWS! This past school year, 3,400 buildings provided free breakfast and lunches, more than double from the previous year. More than 850,000 public school children chose to eat lunch at school, and over 474,000 ate breakfast.



Students at Parchment High School enjoying lunch. Photo credit: Sarah Rypma



- Assisted the **MDE Student Advisory Council (SAC)** in **developing a [Safe Spaces Resource, A Guide for Michigan Educators](#)**, which was shared with the State Board of Education (SBE) and released publicly in December 2023. **SAC members held a webinar on February 28** to present the resource to Michigan educators. The SAC was formed in the summer of 2020, in the wake of George Floyd's killing; Dr. Michael Rice invited local district leaders to nominate students to engage in dialogue about the important issues of race and racism. Members meet monthly to discuss critical education topics suggested by council members.
- Administered significant mental health and support services funding to ISDs and LEAs, including:
 - Section 31n(6) funds provided \$87 million to ISDs to provide mental health and support services to general education students.
 - Over 580 behavioral health providers hired or contracted
 - Over 39,000 Michigan students received direct services
 - Section 31n(11) funds provided \$1 million for upgrading technology and systems infrastructure and other administrative requirements to support programs funded under Section 31n.
 - Section 31aa funds provided \$328 million to LEAs, ISDs, nonpublic schools, and Michigan Schools for the Deaf and Blind for activities to improve student mental health and improve student safety.
 - Section 31ff funds provided \$14.5 million to LEAs, ISDs, or higher education institutions to offer stipends to school social workers, school counselors, school psychologist interns, and their supervisors.
 - Section 31o funds provided the final year of a 3-year work project appropriation that allocated \$240 million LEAs and ISDs to increase the number of school psychologists, social workers, counselors, and nurses. The funds have helped hire 1,262 providers (totaling 1,184.75 Full Time Equivalent (FTE)) across more than 350 LEAs.
 - Section 31p funds provided mental health support to 201,461 students in 454 schools through TRAILS resources.
 - Project AWARE funds were awarded to Copper Country ISD, Delta Schoolcraft ISD, and Van Buren ISD in year 4 of a five-year grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Since August 2023, funds have supported the referral of 842 students for mental health services, 622 students receiving services, and 438 mental health providers, school staff, and community members trained in mental health programs.

IMPORTANT TO NOTE!
Funding for children's mental health/school safety grew from \$0 in FY18 to \$492 million in FY24.



Goal 4: Expand Secondary Learning Opportunities for All Students

Students who are offered extensive secondary learning opportunities (such as Career and Technical Education (CTE), Early Middle College (EMC), Dual Enrollment, Advanced Placement (AP), and International Baccalaureate (IB) programs) are empowered to determine their future. Secondary opportunities expand a student's career options and reduce the disparity between the demand and supply of skilled workers and higher education.

- Sent nearly **90,000 letters** from the state superintendent to parents/guardians indicating their **student would be a good candidate for [Advanced Placement \(AP\)](#) classes**. Michigan is one of only two states whose state education agency uses the AP Potential tool to send letters to the parents of students whose PSAT scores suggest the likelihood of student success in AP courses.
- Coordinated, through the collaborative efforts of over 60 committee members, the **revision of the Michigan Career Development Model (MCDM) to include early childhood and post-secondary education, to align with teacher certification grade bands, and to update clarifying language for targets**. The revised MCDM includes an updated reference guide, sample strategies, activities, sample metrics, graphics, and dedicated web pages. Also included in the revised MCDM is integrated career development into the Michigan Integrated Continuous Improvement Process (MICIP) platform by creating data set templates, best practices in the MiStrategyBank, and a curated collection of resources in [#GoOpenMichigan](#).
- Partnered with the [University of Michigan Youth Policy Lab \(UM YPL\)](#) to develop **customized heat maps of Career and Technical Education (CTE) participation and concentration by race, gender, special population groups, and CTE program** compared to the overall demographic composition of high school students in each region. This **Advance CTE** initiative is **designed to support states in developing technical data literacy among CTE administrators** and assist them in **applying an equity mindset to CTE program design and delivery**. In April 2024, MDE and UM YPL pilot-tested materials with MDE. Next, the information will be further piloted with three regions in fall 2024 and then shared via a workshop with all areas in January 2025.
- Partnered with the UM YPL to **identify areas where the number of students participating in and concentrating on CTE was significantly higher or lower than would be predicted**. UM YPL prepared customized spreadsheets for Michigan LEAs that identify areas of the state with less access to CTE so that strategies can be implemented to ensure all students have access to high-quality CTE programs. MDE coordinated a virtual brainstorming session in March 2024 with Career Education Planning District (CEPD) administrators in which the customized data was provided, and **CEPD administrators brainstormed possible causal factors influencing LEAs with higher or lower-than-predicted CTE participation**. CEPD administrators used the data to identify staff members to attend a virtual meeting in April to discuss CTE participation strategies, inform legislative proposals and funding initiatives, identify causal factors, strategies, and barriers of LEAs with similar characteristics in actual and predicted CTE participation, and define criteria for grant applications to increase access to CTE.

GREAT NEWS! 30% increase in the number of students taking AP exams over the past two years and 37% increase in students scoring a 3, 4, or 5. Substantially more students of color are taking AP exams and scoring a 3, 4, or 5.





Health Science Students from the Wilson Talent Center in Ingham County

- Developed and released numerous [Early Middle College guidance documents](#) to support ISDs and LEAs.
 - [Early Middle College Apprenticeships](#) was developed to assist Early Middle Colleges. Early Middle College Youth Registered Apprenticeship combines on-the-job training (provided by an employer in a business, industry, or related organization considered essential to the economy of a local area, region, or state) with job-related academic instruction in occupational technical skills for a specific pathway.
 - [Early Middle College National School Lunch Program](#) was developed with the MDE School Nutrition team. Research has shown that meals and transportation are some of the biggest challenges for Early Middle College students.
 - [Early Middle College Referral](#) was developed with the Michigan Early Middle College Association (MEMCA) for Early Middle College practitioners. It includes contact information for individuals willing to share their expertise on various Early Middle College topics and is organized by state region and topical areas.

GREAT NEWS! Student participation in career and technical education, Advanced Placement (AP), dual enrollment, and early middle college have increased.



Goal 5: Increase the Percentage of Students who Graduate from High School

Graduating from high school may affect how students live the rest of their lives. It can affect job opportunities, personal satisfaction, self-esteem, job happiness, and quality of life.

- Developed and released its **second graduation rate guidance document**, [**Supporting Students to and through Graduation: Engaging Students for Successful Middle Years**](#). The document highlights four categories: strategies to promote attendance, personalized learning, mentoring, and out-of-school time learning.
- GREAT PROGRESS!** The statewide four-year graduation rate is up 0.76 of a percentage point, from 81.01% in 2022 to 81.77% in 2023. This is the second-highest graduation rate in the state's history, behind only 2020, when graduation requirements were temporarily relaxed due to the advent of the pandemic.
- Promoted [**personal curriculum**](#), an optional district tool for modifying the Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) standards and credit requirements for earning a high school diploma to any ISD or district through the MDE MMC. Over the last two years, the MDE consultant has provided 95 trainings to ISDs, 140 trainings to LEAs, and 46 trainings to outside agencies to help them understand the purpose and opportunities available with personal curriculum. In SY 22-23, over 12,000 students had a personal curriculum, approximately 2.7% of the overall student population, an increase of more than 4,485 students, or 54 percent, in the last 6 years.
 - Supported the [**Early Warning and Implementation Monitoring System \(EWIMS\)**](#), **state-certified trainers** who **provided training, coaching, and implementation support** to **22 Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) schools**, seven Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) schools, and one Additional Targeted Support (ATS) school. Additionally, trainers attended a mandatory EWIMS Professional Learning workshop, which enhanced their knowledge and skills to train and support schools.
 - Collaborated with the **National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE)** in developing **Michigan-specific information for workshops** to support secondary and post-secondary Career and Technical Education (CTE) staff. Workshops included:
 - Inspiring Courage to Excel through Self-Efficacy***—challenges educators to create more equitable learning environments and, in turn, encourages students' self-efficacy by developing a keen understanding of factors affecting students.
 - Exploring STEM Careers***—provides a framework to support counselors, educators, and administrators in understanding the variety of experiences and conditions in learning environments that can persuade or discourage a student from considering a career in STEM.
 - Ensuring Equity in Project-Based Learning***—assist educators in creating, evaluating, and administering equitable and effective STEM projects and problem-based learning (PBL) lessons.



Goal 6: Increase the Percentage of Adults with a Post-Secondary Credential

By encouraging adults to obtain post-secondary credentials, additional employment opportunities will be available for those seeking in-demand certifications and degrees. Governor Whitmer's goal is for 60 percent of Michigan adults to have a post-secondary credential by 2030.

- Approved **33 CTE programs** that had **completed the [Career Pathways Grant \(CPG\)](#) process** for developing competencies and standards alignment and identified **450 industry-recognized post-secondary credentials** that allow students to earn credentials for post-secondary transition and employment. Additionally, MDE approved seven CTE programs (Engineering Technology, Drafting and Design Technology, Biotechnology, Collision Repair Technology, Small Engine and Related Equipment Repair, Medium/Heavy Truck Technician, and Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation, and Refrigeration) that began the Career Pathway Grant process in June 2024, with completion date targeted for May 2025.
- Developed, with PTD Technology, a **[public-facing searchable platform of CTE credentials](#)** approved through the CPG process. This platform assists students, parents, teachers, and administrators in identifying CTE programs that offer opportunities to earn high-quality industry credentials while in high school. It is searchable by program, location, or keyword. It lists the Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) code(s) for which the credential is approved and the credentialing entities or vendors offering it. It also provides a link to the Michigan Transfer Network website, which has the available college and university credit for industry credentials, and a link to current post-secondary credit agreements.
- Expanded the number of Michigan Post-secondary Credit Agreement(s) to 115 agreements with fourteen post-secondary partners and guided the development of agreements for college partners. A Post-secondary Credit Agreement(s) work group with representatives from across the state meets quarterly to join efforts related to credit for CTE coursework.
- Worked in collaboration with Michigan College Access Network to expand communications and address barriers to college in high school credit opportunities for all students. A grant was provided by the Bill and Melinda Grants Foundation under the [Accelerate ED](#) program administered through the Education Strategy Group. The grant included focus groups with students, families, and practitioners who all identified the need to be more informed about college in high school to access these opportunities. The grant also provided an opportunity to expand communications regarding the various college in high school opportunities. Therefore, a toolkit with information and communications has been developed (will be available in September 2024) and is available to districts. The materials are fully customizable for districts to utilize in communicating with students and as part of their strategic plans.



Goal 7: Increase the Number of Certified Teachers in Areas of Shortage

Every student deserves access to well-prepared, fully certified educators to support their growth and learning.

- Administered **Future Proud Michigan Educator (PME) EXPLORE** grants, designed to expand access to future educator programming for students in grades 6-12. This year's **awardees included 24 LEAs**. In addition to the in-person EXPLORE courses designed by LEAs, **32 students completed the EXPLORE course via Michigan Virtual** during the SY23-24. MDE held its **first EXPLORE educator conference in October 2023, hosting 83 educators** who shared successful strategies for creating and growing programs. The conference laid the foundation for a **new [#proudMleducator video](#)** featuring EXPLORE programs across Michigan. MDE also collaborated with [Michigan Virtual](#) and [#GoOpenMichigan](#) to improve and expand [professional learning opportunities](#) for teachers working with young aspiring educators.
- Administered section 27b **Future Proud Michigan Educator Grow Your Own (GYO) Staff grants**, which allow LEAs to **increase the number of teachers in shortage areas** by supporting school employees seeking initial certification or additional endorsements. This year, two additional funding rounds were introduced. **Round 2 awarded over \$46 million across 100 grants**, including 82 new LEAs. **Round 3**, yet to be awarded, **prioritizes schools that need support first** and previous awardees second, ensuring equitable funding distribution. So far, **142 LEAs have received over \$129 million in state and federal funds across two rounds**. MDE offers comprehensive support, which includes connecting with programs, collecting lessons learned from other grantees, and creating a network and resource hub for all LEAs to use and learn from one another.
- Provided technical assistance to MiLEAP and educator preparation programs (EPP) to implement the MI Future Educator Fellowship and MI Future Educator Stipend programs (sections 27 a, c, d, and e), providing **direct financial support for teacher candidates**. These programs offer annual scholarships of up to \$10,000 for tuition and stipends of \$9,600 for each student teaching semester. The MiLEAP Student Aid division administers these programs. As of July 22, 2024, over \$21.4 million in Fellowship payments and \$30.6 million in Stipend payments have been made to support more than 3,000 teacher candidates and student teachers in FY24.
- Approved section 27k **grants to assist educators currently enrolled in the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program** by supporting their monthly student loan payments as they work towards loan forgiveness. This program benefits students by providing a powerful tool for LEAs to recruit and retain school staff who work directly with students. The Student Loan Repayment Program awards have been approved for over 500 LEAs. The awards fund approximately **9,500 participants and over \$19.2 million** (representing about 8.5% of the total money allocated for the program).
- Approved **85 new teachers of special education via alternative routes**—68 are veteran teachers who earned additional endorsements in special education. At the same time, **17 new teachers earned initial teacher certification with general and special education endorsements**. [Public Act 49 of 2024](#), signed by Governor Whitmer on June 6, 2024, extended

GREAT NEWS! The U.S. Department of Education has reported that from May 2019 to September 2023, **Michigan ranked second highest in the nation in education job recovery**—among **only seven states to have increases in education staffing**. Source: U.S. Department of Education. (2023). [Raise the Bar Policy Brief](#).



the ability of alternative route providers in Michigan to prepare teachers for special education endorsements through July 21, 2027.

- Enrolled over **500 new teachers in expedited programs offered by 16 Michigan Expedited EPPs** across the state under administrative rule R 390.1153 of the [Teacher Certification Code](#). Several Michigan EPPs have used this rule to develop [expedited teacher preparation programs](#) for candidates seeking to become Michigan teachers. These programs include expedited special education programs, which allow candidates to earn initial teacher certification with stand-alone special education endorsements, and residency programs, which enable candidates to “earn while they learn.”
- Awarded over **\$425,000** of section 27h funds to **Western Michigan University** to assist MDE in **creating standards, curricula, and professional learning for mentors of teachers, administrators, and school counselors** to use to increase the effectiveness of mentoring programs leading to teacher retention and improved student performance. As part of this legislation, MDE is also working to award a **grant of \$500,000 to an entity to collect and analyze data on mentoring and induction programs** within Michigan, both now and after grant funds and materials have been implemented. And, **over the next five years, \$49 million in grants** will be provided to LEAs to **support local mentoring and induction programs** for mentor training, books, materials, professional learning, and other resources necessary for mentoring and onboarding new teachers, staffing costs to cover release time, and contracting with one or more established state professional organizations to provide mentoring services to school administrators.
- Worked to provide [additional staffing flexibilities](#) to ISDs and LEAs. Teachers with the Elementary K-5 All Subjects (K-8 All Subjects in Self-Contained Classroom) (ZG) endorsement may also teach assignments outside the grade range and content area listed on their certificate without a permit. Teachers with an Elementary K-5 All Subjects (K-8 All Subjects in Self-Contained Classrooms) (ZG) endorsement may now be placed in grades K-8 in any subject area, whether the structure is self-contained or departmentalized. Under this new flexibility, a teacher with a ZG endorsement alone is not restricted from teaching departmentalized coursework in grades 6-8. Additionally, Michigan’s world language endorsements (FA-FS) that denote preparation for a narrower grade range than Pre-K-12 may also teach the language identified by their endorsement across the full Pre-K-12 grade range.

IMPORTANT TO NOTE: Funding for the rectification of the teacher shortage has grown from \$0 in FY20 to \$575 million in FY23 and \$448 million in FY24 for a range of measures, most recommended by MDE to the governor and state legislature. These measures included, but were not limited to, scholarships for students and student-teacher stipends for individuals preparing to be teachers, Grow Your Own programs for support staff and students who aspire to be teachers, teacher loan repayment, mentoring, and a rural credentialing hub.



Goal 8: Provide Adequate and Equitable School Funding

Different students have different needs, and different needs have different costs. Schools with the highest-need students often receive fewer resources than those serving the most affluent.

- Administered from the FY24 State School Aid budget:
 - Per pupil foundation allowances
 - Section 31a - \$952 million for economically disadvantaged students
 - Section 51e - \$336.2 million for students with disabilities
 - Section 41 - \$39.8 million for English language learners
 - Section 22d - \$11.6 million for students in rural and isolated LEAs
 - Section 22l - \$125 million to reimburse LEAs for the cost of general education pupil transportation, the first time in the state's history for this funding.
 - Section 74b - \$125 million for clean school bus grants
 - Section 12c - \$245 million from the School Consolidation and Infrastructure Fund allocated to provide funding for the consolidation of LEAs
- Administered Federal funding for the following title programs:
 - Title I, Part A – Improving Basic Programs
 - Title I, Part C – Migrant Education
 - Title I, Part D – Neglected and Delinquent
 - Title II, Part A – Supporting Effective Instruction
 - Title III, Part A EL/Immigrant - English Language Acquisition: State Formula Grant Program
 - Title IV, Part A – Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants
 - Title V, Part B/Title VI, Part B – Rural and Low-income Schools
 - Title IX/X, McKinney-Vento
 - Charter School Grant Program
 - MEP Consortium Incentive Grants
 - Michigan Comprehensive Literacy State Development Project
 - Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Grants
 - American Rescue Plan - Homeless I & II
- Continued to assist LEAs in understanding the requirements of ESSER I, II, and III funding and [processing reimbursement claims](#) as needed.

DID YOU KNOW? In FY24, MDE administered approximately 25% of the state's budget and approximately 160 state grants with roughly 1% of the state's full-time equivalent (FTE) employees.



Additional Outstanding Work

- Engaged more than **200 educators** in the **African American Student Initiative (AASI)** during the SY23-24. Phase I of AASI grounds educators in a common language, uncovers personal and professional biases, and examines practices that can reframe educational experiences for Black children and their families in a positive, inclusive, and equitable way. Phase 2 helps educators understand and celebrate Black children's communities and cultures. Phase 3 is participation in Culturally Responsive Leadership academies.
- Organized and held the **2023 MDE Continuous Improvement Conference** on October 19 at the Comfort Inn & Suites in Mt. Pleasant. The **conference theme was *Continuous Improvement: Leveraging Systems, Strategies, and Supports to Impact Outcomes for All Students***, and the **keynote speaker, Mr. Kurt Russell**, the 2022 National Teacher of the Year. There were 350 in-person participants and another 95 virtually.

"The conference was well planned, organized, and executed! Thank you for a wonderful day of learning, sharing, and connecting with others across the state."
– conference attendees

"By attending this conference, I learned from these well-prepared experts how to analyze the information we have on hand for each student to plan for their academic future." "AMAZING!!! We are meeting today to apply our learning to our district process."
– conference attendees

- Organized and held the **2023 Special Populations Conference** from October 24 to 26 at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing. The **conference theme was *Recognizing Greatness***, and the **keynote speakers were Ms. Huda Essa**, Founder of Culture Links, LLC and Author of Teach Us Your Name and Common Threads, and **Mr. Fabian Ramirez**, who addressed anti-bullying. The pre-conference sessions focused on students experiencing homelessness with keynote speaker **Ms. Michelle Burkhardt** from Grow By 1, LLC, and English learner students with **Dr. Andrea Honigsfeld**, Education, Author, and Consultant. **The pre-conference had 377 in-person participants, and the leading conference had 700 in-person and 50 virtual participants.**

- Led, in partnership with the English Learner Advisory subcommittee, the **development of an English Learner program evaluation**— a comprehensive process to help LEAs assess their current implementation levels, plan for improvements, and ongoing efforts related to English Learner (EL) programming. This process emphasizes a collaborative, multidisciplinary approach and is closely aligned with MICIP. Key components of the rollout included an **in-person session** at the Special Populations Conference, **four statewide webinars, tools and resources** to support LEAs, and **regional meetings for EL leaders** and their teams in collaboration with ISDs across the state.

"Great information to have as we start working toward the Gold Standard for EL programs!!" "The document they shared was AMAZING! I am looking forward to completing it with my district/team." – session attendee



- The [MiMTSS TA Center](#), working on **behalf of MDE** to support educators in building their knowledge and skills to serve all students equitably using a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework, **held and taught 586 synchronous trainings that were attended by over 12,251 Michigan educators**. Some training topics included a focus on literacy, social, emotional, and behavioral health, early childhood positive behavioral interventions and supports, district infrastructures to support MTSS, and implementing advanced tiers of MTSS (Tier 2 and 3) to intensify intervention supports for students. Districts with **MDE partnership agreements received priority** for on-site, professional learning focused on applying the MTSS framework in preschool, elementary, or secondary settings to enhance social, emotional, or behavioral outcomes and literacy outcomes.
- Supported science and math opportunities for students by **hiring an MDE science education consultant who connects with the [MiSTEM Network](#)** and supports state and national Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education leaders and initiatives. **MDE also provides consulting and technical support to the [MiSTEM Advisory Council](#)** in distributing grant dollars that support K-12 STEM programs that increase student engagement and achievement, create innovative programs, expand access to work-related experiences, and provide professional training and ongoing support to educators.
- Administered **\$4 million in section 99b computer science (CS) professional learning funds**. Funds **supported 61 LEAs in developing and implementing teacher professional development programs for CS courses** and content aimed to reach new and existing teachers with little to no CS background. MDE also assisted with the fourth round of Implementing Effective Use of Technology Competitive (IET) grants. Fifteen LEAs were awarded \$208,000 to support CS and open educational resources (OER) implementation. MDE held 36 Strategic CSforALL Resource and Implementation Planning Tool (SCRIPT) workshops, which helped LEAs create a vision and an actionable plan for implementing computer science. It is a requirement for all 99b and IET awardees to implement the SCRIPT process. MDE revisited goals with 11 LEAs that asked for additional support.





2023-2024 Michigan Teacher of the Year

CANDICE JACKSON

Mann Learning Community
Detroit Public Schools Community District

Candice Jackson began her teaching career in 2002 with the Detroit Public Schools Community District. She is a third-grade teacher and instructional coach at Mann Learning Community. She co-founded the student organization Mann Girls Matter, helping female students find their voice. She is the chair of the Parent Teacher Home Visit Program, a collaboration with the Office of Family and Community Engagement, which brings teacher groups into the community to bridge the gap between parents, students, and teachers. She facilitates professional development programs at the building level as well as at the district level.

Find more information on the [Michigan Teacher of the Year website](#).



Michigan Teacher Leadership Advisory Council

The Regional Teachers of the Year, including the Michigan Teacher of the Year (MTOY), form the Michigan Teacher Leadership Advisory Council (MTLAC). During their year of service, the group of teacher leaders representing ten regions across Michigan regularly meets to share issues of importance to teachers and students with MDE, as well as provide input on proposed state and department initiatives.



Region 1

DR. GINA PEPIN

A reading interventionist at Lemmer Elementary School in Escanaba Public Schools



Region 2

BRANDI CLARK

A math teacher at Kalkaska Middle School in Kalkaska Public Schools



Region 3

STEPHANIE NIELSEN

A kindergarten teacher at Shawmut Hills Academy in Grand Rapids Public Schools



Region 4

BRIDGIT SOVA

A special education teacher at Dow High School in Midland Public Schools



Region 5

JENNIFER SENKMAIER

A fourth-grade teacher at Yale Elementary in Yale Public Schools



Region 6

NICOLE MINOR

A math teacher at Lansing Eastern High School in Lansing Public Schools



Region 7

JAIME HILASKI

A visual arts teacher at Schoolcraft Junior-Senior High School in Schoolcraft Community Schools



Region 8

LORI RICHERT

A second-grade teacher at Childs Elementary in Lincoln Consolidated Schools



Region 9

VANESSA ROBERT

A kindergarten teacher at Canton Charter Academy



Region 10

CANDICE JACKSON

A third-grade teacher at Mann Learning Center in Detroit Public Schools Community District



MDE Leadership

State Superintendent

Dr. Michael F. Rice, State Superintendent
Dr. Sue C. Carnell, Chief Deputy Superintendent

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Dr. Rané Garcia, Director

Human Resources

Joetta Parker, Director

Partnership Districts

Gloria Chapman, Director

Public and Governmental Affairs

Bob Wheaton, Director

State Board of Education

Liz Evans, State Board Executive

Strategic Planning and Implementation

Kelly Siciliano Carter, Director

Division of Assessment, School Improvement, and Systems Support

Dr. Delsa Chapman,
Deputy Superintendent

**Educational Assessment and
Accountability**
Andrew Middlestead, Director

Educational Supports
Dr. Corinne Edwards, Director

**Systems, Evaluation, and
Technology**
David Judd, Director

Division of Business, Health, and Library Services

Dr. Diane Golzynski,
Deputy Superintendent

Financial Management
Spencer Simmons, Director

Office of Health and Safety
Aimee Alaniz, Director

Office of Nutrition Services
Dr. Deanne Kelleher, Director

Library of Michigan
Randy Riley, State Librarian

Division of Educator Excellence, Career Technical Education, Special Education, and Administrative Law

Dr. Michele Harmala,
Deputy Superintendent

Administrative Law
Precious Boone, Director

**Career and Technical
Education**
Celena Mills, Director

Educator Excellence
Kelli Brozanski, Director

Special Education
Teri Rink, Director



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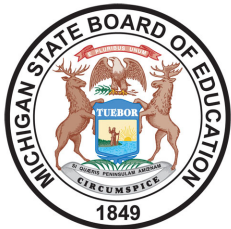


The Honorable
Gretchen Whitmer
Governor
ex officio



Michael F. Rice, Ph.D.

Chairperson
State Superintendent
ex officio



Michigan State Board of Education

Actions in 2023-2024

Resolutions, statements, and policies adopted by the State Board of Education can be accessed online at michigan.gov/sbe.





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