

# The Governor's Educator Advisory Council Response to Oxford Shooting

The members of the Governor's Educator Advisory Council (GEAC) are devastated by the recent events at Oxford High School. The violence that occurred is unthinkable, and we extend our shared support for our colleagues and the Oxford community. The staff, students, and parents in Oxford Community Schools have demonstrated great leadership and strength as they take actions to recover and heal from this senseless tragedy.

The violence in our schools has changed the culture of our educational systems. Students and staff walk into schools not knowing what the day brings, fearful for violence at any moment. They cannot be present in learning and instruction when the focus is leaving school alive at the end of the day.

A safer future is contingent on bringing educational communities together. This requires a partnership with families focused on supporting all students. Schools need more support staff including school counselors, school social workers, and behavior specialists who have the tools and time necessary to perform their jobs. Communities need resources to provide adequate wrap-around services. Proper and adequate funding is needed to achieve this reality. The need is great, and the need for action is now. The start of the new year offers hope, solidarity, and an opportunity for Michiganders to work together on behalf of our children in the coming year.

Unanimously approved: December 17, 2021



Ben Pineda

Angela Perez

Marcus Walton

Jeff Whittle

Lisa Rivard

Ruth Lahti

Cathy Longstreet

Leah Porter

Margaret Lincoln