

# Governor's Education Advisory Council Recommendation for the Promotion of Public Education

March 2022

The Governor's Educator Advisory Council envisions a plan to promote and recognize the work of public school educators. Educators need to be supported in their work to continue to improve the experience of students. Educators also need their work to be valued and sustainable, especially as they have been working through the continued challenges of the pandemic. Our mission is to promote innovation in educational settings, collect and share data generated in our varied instructional areas, and to recognize and publicize success stories in our profession.

Our recommendation is to create and fund an Office of Innovation (Office) within the Michigan Department of Education (MDE). The Office would include three areas to promote public education: promoting action research, collecting and sharing the results, and publicly celebrating the accomplishments in our field. The Office will promote inspiration in school settings, advance action research (including support/training), and celebrate work being done in our public schools. This will also be a partnership with the Michigan Teacher of the Year, while developing strategies to share school successes with the public to be implemented at local and state levels.

We know that educators in Michigan innovate in many contexts:

- Innovation is happening at the classroom, building, district, and community levels.
- Innovation is happening in bus garages and cafeterias.
- Innovation is happening in offices and board rooms.
- Innovation is happening in classrooms and hallways and on playgrounds.
- Innovation is happening in-person and remotely.

Although much of this work goes unnoticed, we believe that should change. This work should be recognized, supported, and shared. Stakeholders in Michigan need to be aware of the extraordinary efforts of our educators.

The Office will support future creative work by:

- Funding innovation
- Promoting and publishing Action Research
- Celebrating success in these areas

This Office will provide grants for innovative work in education. The action research will support innovative work in education and promote the ideas that Michigan school systems have implemented. The data collected with this action research will be made available to educators, providing meaningful professional learning so we can continue to learn and grow in our respective fields from one another. By incorporating the work of the Michigan Teacher of the Year, the Office will model, through social media, how educators contribute to our communities. By telling educators' personal stories about overcoming adversity, we are getting good news out to our state stakeholders and celebrating our educators.



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