

# The Governor's Educator Advisory Council recommends:

The Governor's Educator Advisory Council is recommending that Governor Whitmer and her policy directors support and promote proper funding of bills HB 5958 *Paraprofessionals to Teachers Pathways Grant Act* and HB 5959 *Teachers Pathways Grant Fund Act*, sponsored by Representatives Kevin Hertel and Matt Koleszar, respectively.

The acceptance of this request and the subsequent promotion of these bills will help demonstrate much-needed recognition and respect for paraprofessionals working in Michigan schools.

The passage of these bills will help promote diversity in Michigan classrooms and will address teacher shortages throughout the state.

Paraprofessionals have an important and unique role in Michigan schools and with Michigan's students. The role of a paraprofessional requires acting as a team player, demonstrating flexibility and a high level of content and pedagogical knowledge. As integral members of the educational community, paraprofessionals possess skills that situate them to become effective teachers.

Elevating this knowledgeable, diverse and experienced group of educators in Michigan schools will help them begin or complete their journeys and is a critical step toward supporting our students and educational communities.

Unanimously approved: September 18, 2020

