



# GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

## MAKING HISTORIC INVESTMENTS IN KIDS, SCHOOLS, AND SKILLS



Governor Whitmer believes every kid deserves a phenomenal public education and has worked across the aisle to make record investments from preschool to postsecondary education.

### Making historic investments in students and schools

- Put Michigan students first with \$10,000 in per-student funding, the highest ever state funding, the highest ever state funding without raising taxes. Raised per-pupil funding by 26% since taking office, and [announced](#) Michigan's high school graduation rate hit an all-time high.
- [Enacted a historic education budget](#) that continues free school meals for all, boosts literacy supports, invests in before-and after-school programs, funds free pre-K and community college, and fixes school buildings and infrastructure.
- [Closed the funding gap](#), ensuring every school district has the same baseline funding, and [paid off](#) MPSERS debts early, freeing up \$670 million to invest in schools and saving K-12 districts the equivalent of more than \$400 per pupil.
- [Provided](#) free breakfast and lunch to all 1.4 million public school students and forgave all school meal debt through bipartisan collaboration. [Continued](#) summer meals so every kid eats for free.
- [Tripled](#) the number of in-school literacy coaches to help every child read by third grade.
- Signed budgets that opened [100 school-based health clinics](#), [expanded access](#) to before- and after-school programs, and increased the number of on-campus [mental health professionals](#).
- [Signed bills](#) strengthening AED and CPR training requirements to protect students and athletes.
- [Increased funding](#) for at-risk students, English language learners, and special education.
- Signed budgets that opened [100 school-based health clinics](#), [expanded access](#) to before- and after-school programs, increased the number of on-campus [mental health professionals](#), and [continued investments in school safety and mental health](#).
- Signed a bill assisting schools with [providing funds](#) for school security, technology, transportation, and facility upgrades. [Reimbursed](#) districts for transportation costs.
- Signed a bill [reducing red tape for schools](#) by removing a duplicative rating system that failed to meet federal requirements
- Signed a [financial literacy bill](#) requiring high schoolers to take a financial literacy course.
- [Expanded](#) access to free pre-K to every four-year-old while prioritizing families who need it most so every kid can arrive at kindergarten ready to learn.
- [Signed legislation](#) equipping school buses with camera systems that track failures to stop and keep kids safe.
- [Required information](#) on the safe storage of firearms to be distributed to parents of students.
- Funded risk assessments and critical incidence mapping to help schools [protect students](#) and create safety plans in the event of an emergency.

### Investing in teachers and staff

- [Enacted a budget](#) that invests hundreds of millions in educator stipend programs to recruit and retain teachers.
- Created the Mi Future Educator Scholarship offering \$10,000 scholarships to 2,500 future educators annually. Programs will hire or train an [additional 10,000 teachers](#).
- [Signed legislation](#) requiring charter schools to post certain information on their website regarding teachers' salaries, aligning them with public school transparency requirements.
- Signed legislation to [recruit and retain skilled educators](#) by allowing the state to accept out of state teaching certifications, helping educators collectively bargain, and boosting transparency in staffing.
- [Signed a budget](#) investing \$15 million to recruit and retain educators in rural areas.
- Thanked educators by providing premium pay with the [MI Classroom Heroes](#) program.
- [Signed](#) a bill to allow retired teachers and public school employees to return to work while receiving retirement benefits, filling the teacher shortage.
- [Eliminated](#) a tax public school teachers pay towards a health care fund, returning \$600 million to schools and lowering costs for teachers.



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## Keeping kids in class and responding to unfinished learning

- Signed a restoration of [parent's rights in education](#), allowing families to decide with educators to promote or hold back their child.
- [Secured](#) \$150 million through MI Kids Back on Track to tackle unfinished learning and expand tutoring across the state.
- Ensured students had the [support and services](#) they needed during the pandemic.
- Established [Michigan Parent's Council](#), engaged over 13,500 parents, and proposed a [budget](#) that reflected their priorities.
- [Signed legislation](#) implementing proven "Science of Reading" strategies in public school curricula to help kids read.
- [Called for bipartisan legislation](#) to limit the use of phones in classrooms, improving students' academic performance and mental health.

## Expanding access to education and skills after high school

- Set the [Sixty by 30 Goal](#) to have at least [60% of Michiganders](#) earn a degree or skill certificate by 2030 and created the Office of Sixty by 30 to lead the state's efforts.
- [Required](#) every public school to offer at least one computer science course.
- [Delivered](#) on the Michigan Guarantee, giving every Michigan high school graduate the chance to earn a tuition-free associate's degree or skills certificate at their local community college
- Signed an [executive directive](#) to train 5,000 infrastructure workers to maximize federal investments in the state.
- Established [Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Achievement, and Potential](#), a cabinet-level department focused on early learning and higher education, improving long-term student outcomes, developing talent, and growing the economy.
- Created and [expanded](#) the [Michigan Achievement Scholarship](#) to lower the cost of college by thousands. [Announced](#) 60,000 students enrolled.
- Established [Michigan Reconnect](#) to offer Michiganders who are 25 and older a tuition-free associate degree or skills certificate in high-demand careers. Over [100,000+](#) accepted.
- [Announced an executive directive](#) to reach more young men and boost their enrollment in postsecondary programs.
- [Helped more](#) families save for college by clarifying where students can use a Michigan Education Trust.
- [Made apprenticeships](#) more accessible by ensuring the Michigan education Savings Program Act covers expenses for books, fees, and other supplies.
- [Proposed historic expansion](#) of Career and Technical Education programs in underserved districts to help more kids find pathways to opportunity.
- [Updated](#) the Michigan Achieving a Better Life Experience (MiABLE) savings program increasing eligibility for 500,000 disabled individuals and their families.
- Strengthened our [community colleges and universities](#) with operational increases—including establishing minimum per student funding at universities for the first time.
- Announced a new [Battery Job Training Program](#) at Henry Ford College to prepare students for the jobs of the future.
- Signed an [executive directive](#) to lower costs and reduce the student loan burden.