



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.

Making historic investments in students and schools

- Put Michigan students first with [\\$9,608](#) 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.
- [Closed the funding gap](#), ensuring every school district has the same baseline funding, and [paid off](#) MPERS debts early, freeing up \$670 million to invest in schools and saving K-12 districts the equivalent of more than \$400 per pupil.
- [Provided](#) bipartisan, free breakfast and lunch to all 1.4 million public school students, forgiving all school meal debt. [Continued](#) summer meal program.
- [Tripled](#) literacy coaches serving in schools to help every child read by third grade.
- Secured [\\$214 per student](#) for on-campus mental health and school safety needs, [signed a budget](#) with \$328 million for mental health and school safety, and [continued](#) investments in school safety and student mental health.
- Signed budgets that opened [100 school-based health clinics](#), [expanded access](#) to before and after-school programs, and increased on-campus [mental health professionals](#).
- [Signed bills](#) strengthening AED and CPR training requirements to protect students and athletes.
- Invested [\\$250 million](#) to modernize and upgrade school infrastructure.
- [Increased funding](#) for at-risk students, English language learners, and special education.
- 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.
- 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

- 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 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.

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.



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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.
- [Delivered](#) on the Michigan Guarantee, giving every Michigan high school graduate the chance to earn an associate's degree or skills certificate at their local community college, tuition-free.
- 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.
- Established [Michigan Reconnect](#) to offer Michiganders 25 and up tuition-free associate degree or skills certificate in high-demand careers. Over [100,000+](#) accepted. Lowered the age for participants to 21, expanding eligibility to 350,000 more.
- [Futures for Frontliners](#) offers Michiganders who served on the frontlines of the pandemic tuition-free paths to postsecondary education or skills training. Over 85,000 accepted.
- 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.