



# 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 more than [\\$10,000](#) in per-student funding, the highest ever state funding.
- [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](#) MPERS debts early, freeing up \$670 million to invest in schools and saving K-12 districts the equivalent of more than \$400 per pupil.
- [Announced](#) Michigan's high school graduation rate improved to 84%, the highest rate since tracking began in 2008.
- [Established](#) the first ever free breakfast and lunch program in Michigan, feeding 1.4 million public school students and forgave all school meal debt through bipartisan collaboration.
- [Tripled](#) the number of in-school literacy coaches to help every child read by third grade.
- Signed budgets that [made historic investments in school safety and mental health](#), opened [100 school-based health clinics](#), 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 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 so every kid can arrive at kindergarten ready to learn – now reaching record enrollment with [nearly 55,000](#) children.
- [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.
- [Proposed](#) “Every Child Reads,” the largest investment in literacy in Michigan history, investing in early starts through free PreK for All, proven methods like phonics and teacher training, and extra help for students who need it most.
- 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 an executive order establishing the [“Every Child Reads Champions Council”](#), bringing together leaders in education, government, and the community to [make sure Michigan stays on track with its literacy goals](#).
- Created the Mi Future Educator Scholarship offering annually up to [\\$10,000](#) in scholarships to 2,500 future educators.
- [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.
- [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 3% tax on public school teachers that funded a health care account, returning \$600 million to schools and lowering costs for teachers.



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### Keeping kids in class and responding to unfinished learning

- [Signed legislation](#) implementing proven “Science of Reading” strategies in public school curricula to help kids read.
- Signed [bipartisan legislation](#) to limit the use of phones in classrooms, improving students' academic performance and mental health.
- 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.
- Established [Michigan Parent's Council](#), engaged over 13,500 parents, and proposed a [budget](#) that reflected their priorities.
- Signed [bipartisan legislation](#) removing the essay portion of the Michigan Merit Exam and the requirement to place test scores on transcripts, giving Michigan students more flexibility and fairness when applying to colleges.

### 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 a tuition-free associate's degree or skills certificate at their local community college
- 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](#) that more than 110,400 students have received more than \$740 million in support via Michigan Achievement.
- Established [Michigan Reconnect](#) to offer Michiganders who are 25 and older a tuition-free associate degree or skills certificate in high-demand careers. Over [250,000](#) students have been accepted, with more than 94,000 enrolling.
- Called on the legislature to lower the age for eligibility for Michigan Reconnect to 21.
- [Signed an executive directive](#) directing state departments and agencies to engage in skills-based hiring, helping more Michiganders get good-paying jobs and building a more resilient and versatile workforce.
- [Announced an executive directive](#) to reach more young men and boost their enrollment in postsecondary programs.
- [Helped more](#) families save for college by granting greater flexibility for students using the Michigan Education Trust program.
- [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.
- [Required](#) every public school to offer at least one computer science course.
- [Increased eligibility for 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.