



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 [\\$10,300](#) in per-student funding, the highest ever state funding.
- [Enacted an 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 invests in literacy.
- [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.
- [Codified](#) requirements for districts to receive weighted funding, a student-centered approach that allocates resources based on student need with a focus of improving outcomes in the classroom.
- [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.
- 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](#).
- [Enacted a budget](#) that includes up to \$321 million to support student wellness through mental health and safety grants to districts, representing a twelvefold increase in mental health and safety funding since the governor took office.
- [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.
- [Allocated \\$150 million](#) in educator bonuses to ensure our educators have what they need to succeed.
- Created the Mi Future Educator Scholarship offering annually up to [\\$10,000](#) in scholarships to 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.

Helping every child be a strong reader

- [Set the Every Child Reads](#) goal to ensure every child has the support they need to be a strong reader, writer, and communicator. With feedback from parents, educators, and community members, created Michigan's [Every Child Reads](#) plan including investing in early starts, proven methods, and extra help.
- Delivered over [\\$502 million](#) investment in literacy and Every Child Reads.



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- Prioritized training for educators, including a [\\$75 million](#) investment in literacy training and [signing legislation](#) that every elementary reading teacher complete training in the science of reading, including phonics. [Quadrupled](#) literacy coaches since taking office to help teachers implement what works.
- Incentivized districts to adopt proven curriculum. Created the Committee for Literacy Achievement to identify what works and directed [\\$50 million](#) in additional funding to help districts adopt effective curriculum, professional learning, and assessments.
- 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.
- [Signed legislation](#) implementing proven “Science of Reading” strategies in public schools and teacher preparation programs to help kids read.

Keeping kids in class and learning

- 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.
- [Increased investments](#) in state financial aid by more than 500%, making it more affordable for thousands of Michiganders to earn a skill certificate or college degree.
- [Delivered](#) on the Community College Guarantee, giving every Michigan high school graduate the chance to earn a tuition-free associate degree or skill certificate at their local community college.
- 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 21](#) and older a tuition-free associate degree or skill certificate at their local community college. Nearly [250,000](#) students have been accepted, with more than 82,000 enrolling.
- 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.
- [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.
- [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 initiatives with community colleges to train students for jobs of the future like the [Battery Job Training Program](#) with Henry Ford College and the [Michigan Maritime Manufacturing Initiative](#) with Macomb Community College.