



GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

MAKING HISTORIC INVESTMENTS IN
KIDS, SCHOOLS, AND SKILLS



From her first day in office, Governor Whitmer has worked to expand opportunities and improve outcomes for Michigan's children. She made the largest education investment in state history—without raising taxes—to close the funding gap between schools in Michigan, expand access to preschool program for all eligible 4-year-olds, and distribute resources to expand mental health supports for our kids. She's invested in education professionals and created tuition-free pathways to be a teacher. These historic investments ensure our schools have the funds to help every Michigander reach their full potential. The Governor also believes each Michigander deserves a path to a high wage job, and has secured bipartisan investments making college more affordable for all Michiganders through Michigan Reconnect and the Michigan Achievement Scholarship.

"Every child in this state has a birthright to a phenomenal public education and a path to a high wage job. I have made historic investments in our public schools without raising taxes to give every kid in every community an opportunity to pursue their potential. We will continue finding ways to facilitate student recovery from the pandemic and put our kids on track to graduate and pursue post-secondary education, skills training, or good-paying jobs."

- Governor Gretchen Whitmer

Securing historic investments in students and schools

- Put Michigan students first with [\\$9,150 per student](#) funding, the highest ever state funding without raising taxes and directing more resources to the students that need them most. Since the Governor took office in 2019, she has raised per pupil funding by \$1,279, a 16.2% increase.
- [Closed the funding gap](#) between schools, ensuring every school district has the same baseline funding.
- Dedicated more state resources to students with the highest needs, including increased funding for at-risk, English language learners, and special education in the FY [20](#), [21](#), [22](#), and [23](#) budgets.
- Opened [100 school-based health clinics](#), expanded access to after-school programs, and increased [on-campus mental health professionals](#), including school counselors and psychologists.
- Secured [\\$214 per student](#) to respond to local mental health and school safety needs.
- Funded risk assessments and critical incidence mapping to help schools [protect students](#) and create safety plans in the event of an emergency.
- Provided resources to [Oxford Community Schools](#) to hire and retain mental health professionals, enhance security measures, and provide flexible learning opportunities.
- Made our schools safer—including a [\\$250 million investment](#) in school infrastructure.
- Signed a [financial literacy bill](#) to prepare young Michiganders for the future, empowering them to take control of their finances by requiring a high school financial literacy course.
- [Tripled](#) literacy coaches serving in schools to help every child read by third grade.
- [Eliminated waiting lists](#) and continued funding the [expansion](#) of the Great Start Readiness Program, ensuring every eligible four-year-old can attend high-quality preschool.
- Proposed temporarily [suspending the Michigan sales tax](#) on school supplies, part of her MI Back to School Plan to help families get ready for the upcoming school year.

Investing in teachers and staff

- Created the Mi Future Educator Scholarship offering \$10,000 scholarships to 2,500 future educators annually, funded Grow Your Own programs helping districts train school staff to become teachers tuition-free, and backed the Troops-to-Teachers program helping those who served find jobs as educators.
- Taken together, these programs will hire or train an [additional 10,000 teachers](#).
- Thanked educators for all they do for our children by providing premium pay through the [MI Classroom Heroes](#) grant program.
- Invested [\\$10 million](#) in 2021 and additional [\\$285 million](#) in 2022 to support teacher recruitment, training, development, and retention.

Keeping kids in class and responding to unfinished learning

- Introduced [MI Kids Back on Track](#), a plan to tackle unfinished learning and [secured over \\$50 million](#) to expand tutoring and other forms of personalized instruction across the state.
- Kept students safely learning in person by directing \$150 million to [expand testing and screening](#) in schools.
- Invested [\\$5.8 billion](#) to ensure students had the support and services they needed during the pandemic and for a comprehensive recovery.
- Established the [Return to Learn Advisory Council](#), published the [MI Safe Schools Roadmap](#) providing guidance for safe operations during the 2020-2021 school year, and signed bipartisan [Return to Learn legislation](#) to shore up school financials.
- [Established](#) the cross-sector Student Recovery Advisory Council to develop a roadmap to support students' academic, physical, and mental recovery. Published the [MI Blueprint for Comprehensive Student Recovery](#) to support local education leaders in developing and implementing a multi-year, evidence-based, equity-driven recovery plan.
- Established the [Michigan Parent's Council](#) to bring in parent perspectives to the state education budget process.

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.
- Created the [Michigan Achievement Scholarship](#) to make college more affordable for high school graduates. Starting with the class of 2023, students will be eligible for an annual scholarship worth up to \$5,500 depending on where they go to college and family need.
- Signed legislation to ensure students are aware of all [postgraduate opportunities](#) available to them.
- Established and [fully funded](#) programs to provide tens of thousands of Michiganders tuition-free higher education or skills training that leads to a high-skill, good-paying job.
 - [Michigan Reconnect](#), a program that pays tuition of Michiganders 25 and up to pursue an associate degree or earn a skills certificate in high-demand careers. Over [100,000+ applicants](#) accepted into program.
 - [Futures for Frontliners](#), providing a tuition-free path to postsecondary education or skills training for Michiganders who served on the frontlines of the pandemic. Over 85,000 applicants accepted into the program.
 - [Partnered with colleges](#) to improve college completion rates for students enrolled in Reconnect and Futures—and all students.
- Strengthened our [community colleges and universities](#) with operational increases—including establishing minimum per student funding at universities for the first time.
- Secured \$250 million to create a [new scholarship program](#) to make college more affordable for more Michigan students.
- Created the [Center for Adult College Success](#) to improve adult enrollment and college completion.
- Signed legislation to ensure students are aware of all [postgraduate opportunities](#) available to them.