

MI CLASSROOM HEROES COVID-19 GRANTS

SHOWING GRATITUDE TO MICHIGAN'S EDUCATORS

THE PROBLEM

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced Michigan schools and educators to retool their classrooms and rethink the way they educate kids. When COVID-19 hit Michigan, and with very little notice, teachers quickly pivoted from face-to-face teaching to remote instruction. They worked around the clock to transform their physical classrooms into virtual classrooms in order to ensure students continued to learn and engage with their peers. School support staff mobilized to help distribute food to students in need, as well as devices and hotspots to students who didn't have digital access at home. They all found creative ways to connect with Michigan's children during a pandemic, and for this, they deserve support.

GOVERNOR WHITMER'S PLAN

In September 2020, the Governor worked across both sides of the aisle to pass a budget that protected Michigan kids from funding cuts and took another step towards a weighted funding formula. In addition, the budget appropriated funding for the MI Classroom Heroes Grants.

In February, the Whitmer Administration will begin sending checks of up to **\$500** for eligible teachers and support staff. Eligible teachers are those that had primarily worked in bricks-and-mortar classrooms before April 2, 2020 and then transitioned to providing continuity of learning to students during the 2019-2020 school closure that resulted from the pandemic. Both public and nonpublic school teachers are eligible for the grant. Eligible support staff had worked in bricks-and-mortar school settings before April 2, 2020 and continued to provide services to students during the pandemic. Examples of eligible support staff positions include paraprofessionals, food service workers, custodians, bus drivers, school counselors, and literacy coaches.

In December 2020, school administrators across Michigan submitted the names and addresses of eligible teachers and support staff to the Michigan Department of Treasury. Treasury will be mailing checks directly to educators in February 2021.