



# GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

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 22,000 more 4-year-olds, and distribute resources to expand mental health supports for our kids. 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 she is committed to making college degrees and skill certificates available and affordable for more residents.

*"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 postsecondary education, skills training, or good-paying jobs."*

*- Governor Gretchen Whitmer*

## Secured historic investments in students, teachers, and schools

- Put Michigan students first with the [FY 2023 budget proposal](#) that included funding to:
  - Make our schools safer—including a [\\$1 billion investment](#) in school buildings.
  - Help every student—by proposing the highest per-student funding ever, without raising taxes and directing more resources to the students that need them most
  - Support our teachers and school staff.
    - Up to \$4,000 in bonuses for school staff that stay in their districts for two years.
    - Up to \$11,000 in bonuses for teachers and certified staff that stay in their districts for four years.
    - Scholarships and stipends to train and hire an additional 10,000 teachers.
  - Ensure every kid can be a kid—including hiring hundreds more on-campus mental health professionals, opening 40 school-based health clinics, and expanding access to after school programs.
- [Closed the funding gap](#) between schools, ensuring every school district has the same baseline funding.
- [Eliminated waiting lists](#) for the Great Start Readiness Program, ensuring every eligible four-year-old can attend high-quality preschool.
- Made state funding equitable by dedicating 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](#), and [22](#) budgets. Proposed a continued commitment to equity in the FY 2023 budget.
- [Tripled](#) literacy coaches serving in schools to help every child read by third grade.
- Thanked educators for all they do for our children by providing premium pay through the [MI Classroom Heroes grant](#) program.
- Invested [\\$10 million](#) to support teacher recruitment, training, development, and retention.

## Providing a pathway to a comprehensive student recovery

- Kept students safely learning in person by directing \$150 million to [expand testing and screening](#) in schools.
- Expanded [access to mental health professionals](#), including school counselors and psychologists, to support students' comprehensive recovery.

- Invested [\\$5.8 billion](#) to ensure students had the support and services they needed during the pandemic and for a comprehensive recovery.
- Led public schools through the most challenging time in our state's history while prioritizing student learning, health, and safety:
  - [Established](#) the Return to Learn Advisory Council.
  - [Published](#) the MI Safe Schools Roadmap providing guidance for safe operations during the 2020-2021 school year.
  - [Signed](#) bipartisan Return to Learn legislation to shore up school financials during the 2020-2021 school year.
  - [Prioritized](#) educators as essential workers for vaccinations.
- [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.

## 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.
- 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.
  - [Futures for Frontliners](#), providing a tuition-free path to postsecondary education or skills training for Michiganders who served on the frontlines of the pandemic.
- [Partnered with colleges](#) to improve college completion rates for students enrolled in Reconnect and Futures—and all students.
- Proposed [historic investments in workforce development](#) with a focus on talent retention and expansion in key industries, removing barriers and providing employment supports for marginalized communities, and expanding public-private partnerships with union and business partners.
- Continued commitments to [expanding access to higher education](#) in her FY 23 budget proposal.