



Fighting for Michigan's Future.

IT'S DOLLARS AND SENSE

Michigan's future depends on the quality of education it provides for learners of all ages. The following is critical to moving our State forward:

1. Support meaningful reform and accountability through research based programs and policies.

The allocation of our tax dollars must be guided by credible research in order to have the greatest positive impact on the largest number of students. *Therefore, we:*

- a. Support investing in early childhood education**, which research clearly indicates is integral to a child's success. Every dollar invested in early childhood education saves \$7 in future corrections and human services costs.
- b. Support reducing Michigan's dropout rate** through proven techniques including class size reduction, programming for at-risk children, after-school and summer enrichment programs, and increased opportunities for teacher training.
- c. Support full and meaningful accountability** of all educational personnel including Superintendents, University and College presidents, teachers and faculty, support staff and boards.
- d. Support the empowerment of educators and school staff** by utilizing their expertise and experience to enhance Pre K-16 education. A collaborative approach to education will be instrumental with recruitment and retention.
- e. Support fully funding quality research** at our institutions of higher education. This cutting edge research is an engine for economic development.

2. Recruit and retain quality educators and staff.

Our learning institutions are only as strong as the people who staff them. We must recruit and retain high-quality educators and staff so that learners of all ages, regardless of their background, have access to a top-notch education. *Therefore, we:*

- a. Support programs and policies to enhance teaching and learning** including constructive evaluations based on multiple measures that are designed to help educators continually improve, create safe and up-to-date learning environments, and provide educators with the supplies and tools necessary.
- b. Oppose Senate Bill 1227 and House Bill 5953** because they penalize educators who continue working, having them pay more for less for their hard earned retirement benefits, and making it more difficult to recruit quality educators.
- c. Oppose the privatizing of jobs.** Privatizing services to save a few dollars in the short term ignores the needs of students and communities. We oppose:
 - i. Requiring school districts to bid their custodial and food service – creating a mandate to outsource. (Senate Bill 1074)
 - ii. Mandating all pupil transportation be turned over to the ISD, a move that could result in the privatization of services. (Senate Bill 1229)

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d. Respect teachers, support staff and college and

university educators. Michigan cannot attract the very best by mandating cuts in pay and benefits, issues that should be resolved on the local level through collective bargaining between the employer and the union.

We oppose:

- i. Calling for a constitutional amendment that mandates a three-year, 5 percent pay cut for all public employees. (Senate Joint Resolution U)
- ii. Mandating all school, university and community college employees pay a 20 percent share of their health insurance premiums, (Senate Bill 1046) and undercutting educators' health benefits and their right to collectively bargain these benefits. (House Bill 5345)
- iii. Capping superintendent and teacher salaries. (Senate Bill 1148)
- iv. Capping school spending on essential "supporting services," such as counseling services, psychologists, social workers, speech therapy, transportation, custodial, food service and more. (Senate Bill 1073)

3. Fully fund educational programs at every level.

Legislation governing our schools must provide fair, adequate and stable funding that provides every student with access to a high-quality classroom instructor. Michigan must seek sensible solutions to solving its budget deficit, and align its spending priorities with our state's need to be an education leader.

Therefore, we:

- a. Support an effective tax structure in Michigan that** creates jobs, is stable, and is fair to Michigan families. Our current, antiquated tax structure is holding our state back.

Therefore, we support A Better Michigan Future and believe that Michigan can address its budget crisis by:

- i. Implementing a graduated income tax and a sales tax on luxury items and services (except medical, non-profits and business-to-business).
- ii. Creating effective tax incentives that create real jobs and, ultimately, generate more revenues. Too many tax breaks go to companies and industries that fail to generate real revenues for our state.
- iii. Requiring transparency and accountability from government sub-contractors, who receive a greater share of Michigan's tax dollars than our schools.

b. Support funding Michigan schools, colleges

and universities in a way that provides them with fiscal stability. Michigan's current education funding system is illogical and undermines our schools' ability to be effective. Currently budgets must be set by July 1, months before our schools, colleges and universities know how much money they will receive from the state.

Therefore, we support:

- i. Completing the School Aid Fund, community college and higher education budgets by June 1, enabling these bodies to know their funding allowance before they establish their budget.
- ii. Adequately addressing declining enrollment in school funding plans.

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