



*Public policy
in the best interest
of children.*

August 20, 2020

Statement on the Governor's Education Emergency Relief Fund Framework

Governor Whitmer announced spending priorities for most of the remaining federal COVID relief funding to support Michigan's education system through the Governor's Education Emergency Relief Fund. We applaud the Governor's decision to use this discretionary funding to provide proven supports for students who shoulder significant challenges, including out-of-school time programs, Early On, and mental and behavioral health services. We also recognize, however, that these resources are limited and represent a first step, that most districts are still projected to only receive a fraction of what they need to meet their students' needs. This means that upcoming state and federal budget decisions must include additional support or students facing some of the most significant challenges, including disability, foster care, homelessness and other trauma, will miss out on the full support they could and deserve to receive.

We also are disappointed to see a lack of prioritization of parent and adult supports, including adult basic skill building and effective family literacy programs, when our system is asking more of parents to support their children's education than ever before. Programs for young adults lacking a high school diploma are more important than ever as employment opportunities have been limited by the COVID crisis and for those who have been affected by the pandemic. We look forward to continuing to work with leaders in our state to advance the learning needs of parents and adult learners, for the sake of our current and future workforce. Out-of-school time programs will provide critical high-quality experiences for school-aged children, and building up the skills of parents and adults who support our children would further leverage that.

As federal decisions are still being debated and state legislators are continuing to struggle with upcoming state budget decisions, we need our leaders to finish the job and build on this framework to ensure access for every student in this pivotal year.

[Details of the Governor's Framework](#)

[Michigan's Children CARES Act Discretionary Priorities, Education](#)