



Immediate release

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This statement can be attributed to Matt Gillard, President & CEO of Michigan's Children, an independent, multi-issue public policy firm dedicated to ensuring equity in public policies related to children, youth and families in Michigan.

Michigan's Children Supports Governor's Weighted School Funding Plan and More Dollars for Early On

Michigan's Children enthusiastically supports the Governor's funding strategy for K-12 students as a needed approach to ensure that the individual learning needs of the state's 1.5 million K-12 students are met so that each can prosper and secure a strong future.

Michigan's K-12 students come from various backgrounds – half are economically disadvantaged - and tens of thousands are experiencing homelessness, foster care, or a diagnosed disability. A weighted formula allows for additional funding to pay for these costly and specialized education needs.

This is a big part of what we talk about when we say education must be student-centered.

Likewise, we applaud the Governor for doubling the funding for Early On, a state program that addresses developmental delays in Michigan's infants and toddlers, by offering critical evaluation and services to mitigate future learning issues. This sizable investment will dramatically help reduce disparities in early special education outcomes, helping put more young children on the road to success in school and later, work and life.

Both are important investments in our state's children, youth, and families. We call on the state Legislature - both Democrats and Republicans - to support these investments in Michigan's kids and families.

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