

POLICY POSITION: Business Leaders for Michigan believes a strong K-12 education system is critical to Michigan becoming a “Top Ten” state for jobs, personal income and a healthy economy. Our K-12 education system is the foundation to giving every child in Michigan an opportunity to be successful in life and to the long-term prosperity of our state. Therefore, we support the following principles:

High Quality Learning

1. Maximize support for teachers, including: promoting the profession, providing robust training opportunities, up to date classroom technologies, and relevant student data.
2. Develop high standards for initially certifying teachers and establish ongoing evaluations of teachers for competency and effectiveness based on student progress and performance.
3. Maximize support for principals, including providing robust training opportunities to ensure effective leadership.

High Student Standards and Aligned Assessments

1. Maintain high student standards, with a focus on math, literacy and science to prepare each student for their path of choice after the 12th grade, including college, technical training or immediate career.
2. Improve literacy outcomes for K-3 students.
3. Maintain and strengthen the M-STEP assessment and then maintain year over year to obtain relevant data to assist teachers.
4. Explore a competency-based learning model to prepare students for 21st Century careers.

Accountability

1. Support and maintain a uniform set of performance and accountability standards for all schools, school management and leadership that accounts for student growth relative to level of proficiency.
2. Adopt improvement strategies and provide the necessary support to remediate results where necessary.

Adequate, Equitable and Sustained Classroom Funding

1. Become a Top Ten state for dollars going to the classroom by determining: (i) the true cost to educate all students equitably; and (ii) the effectiveness of Michigan’s current spending model.
2. Allocate any significant new funding based on relative school progress, performance and equity.

APPROACH

1. Build better and more support from educators, business, parents, government and philanthropy.
2. Align interests to advance the policy principles.
3. Hold every level of the K-12 education system accountable for the role they play in student outcomes. This includes school leadership and management, the Michigan Department of Education, the Governor and the legislature.