

LegislativeUpdate

Michigan Association of Superintendents & Administrators | February 15, 2019



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Summary

This week we heard Governor Whitmer's first State of the State address where she identified a number of issues that the state must address and named failing infrastructure and education and skills the two major crises facing Michiganders. Following her address, MASA sent you a recap of the education policy highlights in her speech. You can also find that recap below.

Beyond the State of the State, it was another light week for the Legislature in terms

of committee hearings, but we will start to see some action next week with bills of interest.

As always, please contact [MASA](#) with any questions or concerns.

ICYMI: State of the State Update

Governor Gretchen Whitmer delivered her first State of the State speech on Tuesday night. During her 55-minute speech, she addressed the following education-related topics.

Literacy

Governor Whitmer touched on the literacy gap among Michigan's third graders. She recognized that the state's third graders rank in the bottom 10 states in the country in reading and that Michigan has experienced the worst decline in childhood literacy. Gov. Whitmer said this decline is happening because generations of leadership have failed students.

Funding

Gov. Whitmer said Michigan has seen the lowest growth in education spending in 25 years, and per-pupil revenue has fallen by 15 percent in the same time. She said education funding has been cut to fill gaps elsewhere in the state budget. Education needs greater investment, and Gov. Whitmer will address this further in her budget address in March.

Skills Gap and Post-Secondary Education

The Governor recognized that as of 2016, only 44 percent of Michigan's workforce has some form of postsecondary education. In her State of the State, Gov. Whitmer announced a goal of increasing the number of Michiganders ages 16-64

with a postsecondary credential to 60 percent by 2030.

The initiative, Michigan Reconnect, will offer three paths. The first will train adults seeking an in-demand industry certification or Associates degree. The second and third paths focus on graduating high school students who are pursuing higher education.

Michigan Reconnect will create the MI Opportunity Scholarship, which will offer two years of debt-free community college for all graduating high school seniors who qualify, or two years of tuition assistance at a four-year, not-for-profit college or university for students who graduate from a Michigan high school with at least a B-average.

This initiative would make Michigan the first Midwestern state to guarantee community college for all.

The scholarship would launch this spring and would be available to students in Fall 2020.

We will have more details on these initiatives when Governor Whitmer releases her Executive Budget Recommendations on March 5.

MDE Releases Second Version of the "Read by Grade Three Guide"

The Michigan Department of Education revised and released a second version of the "[Read by Grade Three Guide](#)." Additions include a staffing section, a new Essentials for Families fridge poster and updated answers regarding assessments, "cut scores", and developmental kindergarten. All revisions/additions are identified

in the guide with italics. The updated Read by Grade Three Guide is available online at <http://mi.gov/earlyliteracy/>.