

**EAST LANSING PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**RESOLUTION ON FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026
MICHIGAN SCHOOL AID FUND BUDGET DELAYS**

WHEREAS, the Constitution of Michigan of 1963 requires the Michigan Legislature and Governor to pass an annual School Aid Budget for the exclusive purpose of funding public education; and

WHEREAS, Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed Public Act 160 into law in 2019 which states that the legislature must pass and present general appropriation bills for the upcoming fiscal year to the governor on or before July 1; and

WHEREAS, local school districts in Michigan are required by law to pass their own budgets for the upcoming school year by July 1; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Legislature has failed to meet their July 1 legal deadline to pass a School Aid Budget appropriation bill or make any meaningful progress toward doing so; and

WHEREAS, the East Lansing Public Schools Board of Education adopted its budget for the 2025-2026 school year without key funding information due to the ongoing lack of a state budget; and

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 School Aid Fund Budget continues to be delayed by political battles that are unrelated to school funding or the needs of our students; and

WHEREAS, School Aid Fund dollars should not:

- Be used to fill budget gaps
- Tied to or used to fund unrelated budget items such as road construction and maintenance
- Fund higher education or private education
- Increase burdensome reporting requirements for already struggling school districts; and

WHEREAS, a responsible School Aid Fund Budget should include:

- A reasonable increase in the per-pupil foundation allowance
- Dedicated funding for Michigan's at-risk youth, English language learners, students in special education, ISD's/RESA's, Great Start Readiness Programs, school libraries, rural communities, CT programs, and additional academic programs
- Continuation of the free breakfast and lunch meal program
- Funding that should be allocated to certain pertinent non-education purposes, such as school infrastructure funding to support districts with older buildings and safety concerns

- Funding for safe, reliable student transportation
- Wrap-around special service funding including mental health support for high needs students

WHEREAS, the ongoing delay in funding certainty has already impacted our ability to best plan for the support our students need and deserve in the upcoming school year; and

WHEREAS, every day the budget continues to be delayed by lawmakers will only worsen the negative impacts on our schools, staff, and students this academic year and beyond; and

WHEREAS, comments by lawmakers that suggest the School Aid Budget can, or should, wait for other budget agreements to fall into place ignore the critical needs of our students; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the East Lansing Public Schools Board of Education is strongly urging state lawmakers to immediately pass a spending bill that fully allocates the entirety of funding meant for our schools in a manner that equitably supports the needs of every student in Michigan.

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER, the East Lansing Public School Board of Education is affirming that School Aid Funding should not be tied to any other budget deals, including ongoing proposals regarding road funding.