

# SCHOOL EQUITY CAUCUS

## 2022-23

### TARGETED GOALS

*Each year the Caucus Board of Directors evaluates member suggestions and the legislative landscape regarding educational issues and interests, then sets targeted goals for the legislative session. The goals are designed to provide guidance and focus as the executive director, lobbyists, and member superintendents interact with the Governor's office, legislators, Department of Education, other school organizations, and business entities.*

#### The 2022-23 School Equity Caucus Targeted Goals:

##### ○ Equity

Inform and educate legislators and other groups of the need to end the inequities inherent in our current system, creating equitable educational opportunities for all students no matter where they live in the state. To do so, we must:

- Remind legislators that despite creating level state support, not all districts receive the same foundation allowance and that **remaining gaps must be eliminated** between districts at the Minimum/Target foundation level and those districts remaining above that level.
- Use the adequacy studies to continue working toward **a new, more equitable school funding structure** in Michigan.
- This structure must provide for **additional ongoing revenues** that will properly fund equitable educational opportunity, including for at-risk, CTE, ELL, special education (at 100% of actual costs), infrastructure, transportation, affordable broadband internet access, access to community college, and other needs.
- This revised funding program must include **state financial support** for school repairs, renovation, upgrades, and construction.
- It also must provide a means of addressing and **equalizing the broad disparities inherent in the use of taxable value** as the basis for revenue generation through infrastructure, career and technical education, special education, and enhancement millages.
- Revenues must also be strong enough to **make education an attractive profession** so that shortages in teaching and support staff positions can be addressed.

##### ○ A Cohesive, Comprehensive Educational System

Thoughtfully create an educational system that provides equity in opportunity and connected learning experiences for all students from birth through 20 years of age. Among other things, such a system would:

- Increase preschool opportunities so that all students have a strong foundation for learning.

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- Address the need for flexibility in teacher certification throughout the system.
  - Incorporate an equitable dual enrollment program that addresses the impact of widely variable community college tuition charges and fees for local school districts.
  - Remove community college districting to increase opportunities for all Michigan students.
- **Restoration of the School Aid Fund's Purpose**
- Increase available revenues by returning the use of the School Aid Fund (SAF) to its original constitutional purpose. Eliminate fiscal transfers from the School Aid Fund to non-instructional departments and programs and prevent any attempts to utilize public revenues to support private schools. End the practice of diverting School Aid Fund revenues for higher education (including both universities and community colleges).
- **Eliminate Revenue Reductions**
- Ensure that tax revenue cuts do not occur without guaranteed replacement funding keeping school funding whole. Emphasize the need for consistent, thoughtful long-term fiscal policy that does not mortgage the future and does not rely on short-term gimmicks.
- **Cost Containment**
- Achieve cost containment measures wherever appropriate opportunities exist, including:
- Eliminating unfunded Department of Education and legislative mandates.
  - Requiring all public schools to participate in the MPSERS program.
  - Encouraging consolidation and pooling of services as appropriate.
- **Term Limits**
- Restore legislative experience, knowledge, leadership, and relationships by lengthening term limits.

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