

*For Immediate Release*  
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## **\*\*\*Public Statement\*\*\***

### **Education Advocates Stand Up for Michigan Public Schools**

*Coalition of Parents, Students, and Educators Denounce State and Federal Attacks on Education*

Public education is under attack on all fronts. Yesterday, the Trump administration gutted the US Department of Education by cutting its workforce in half. Last week, the Michigan House pushed through a budget slashing \$5 billion from public schools. Dismantling the Education Department paves the way for a nationwide [voucher](#) program that favors the wealthy and drains funding from the state's general education fund.

Michigan students are too important to be used as a political tool. Michigan Education Justice Coalition (MEJC) believes that **public money should be spent on public schools where all students—regardless of race, income, or background—have the right to a free and quality education**. Michigan stands to [lose approximately 10% of K-12 funding](#) federally, a huge problem for a state already plagued by a [\\$4.5 billion education funding gap](#) after decades of disinvestment. High poverty schools are at risk of losing essential supplemental funding from Title I and IDEA programs, which will severely harm special education.

"We need to put our babies first - not billionaires. Cutting jobs and abolishing the Education Department with the recent appointment of Linda McMahon shows how out of touch this administration is with our education system. Instead of trying to voucher away public schools we need to be investing in our students. Michigan is \$4.5 billion underfunded and we need those dollars to be invested in our classrooms. Austerity has never served Black and Brown students, but it does fill billionaires' pockets," said Kermit Williams, Co-Executive Director of Oakland Forward Action Fund and a member of MEJC.

MEJC demands that state legislators fully fund and protect public schools and work together to close [tax loopholes](#) and invest in our students, not in [corporate tax breaks](#).

- Special Education has been severely underfunded for decades in defiance of federal law. Our legislators must fully fund IDEA. All students will benefit when this 50 year old promise is finally fulfilled.
- Districts are being threatened with taking away federally funded schools for protecting their own students on the basis of race, sex and other factors. Civil rights are being decimated.
- Protections for LGBTQ+, immigrant, Black, Indigenous, and students of color are disappearing at the federal level and it is up to us to protect our most vulnerable youth.

- Students and families are concerned by potential raids targeting undocumented students and threatening to separate families. Attendance rates are being affected which in turn affects not only student learning but district finances for an archaic system built around attendance requirements to access state funding.

The ensuing chaos is purposely meant to distract and defeat us. But this is not the time for complacency. **MEJC will lead our collective resistance.**

The only way to truly protect our schools and our kids is by standing together in community, holding onto our joy and protecting our most vulnerable learners. Together, we will ensure a strong, joyful public education that prepares children for the classroom and beyond.

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*The [Michigan Education Justice Coalition](#) is a statewide network committed to advocating for equitable public education policies and funding to create safe and healthy learning environments. We envision a Michigan where public schools get the support they need, strengthening communities and making them better places to live for all of us.*