

PRESS RELEASE:

Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2023

Michigan Education Justice Coalition Reacts to Gov. Whitmer State of the State Address

LANSING, Mich. – Gov. Gretchen Whitmer called for a number of measures to improve education in her State of the State speech this evening, including calling for the establishment of a universal pre-k program and investing surplus budget dollars to help catch students up who had fallen behind on learning goals during the pandemic.

In response to these measures, Michigan Education Justice Coalition director Trina Tocco issued the following statement:

“We are thankful to Gov. Whitmer for her commitment to ensuring Michigan has a quality public education system for students no matter who they are or where they are from. Her plan to provide preschool to 4-year-olds across the state will help create a brighter tomorrow for our students and demonstrates that Michigan is one of the best places you can raise a family. The governor’s push to help students catch up on interrupted learning during the pandemic through the MI Kids Back On Track plan will help get students the personalized resources to meet their unique educational needs.

“A MI Kids Back on Track plan that is culturally responsive and sustaining will ensure that we have an educational system that is recalibrated to serve our economic future as a state and fully supports the academic success of all Michigan’s students. We also hope the Governor’s upcoming budget address will join us in calling for new funds to ensure the closing of the \$5 billion gap in funding for our k-12 education system so that we can adequately meet the needs of our youth across the state.”

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.

###