

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Michigan Education Justice Coalition Reacts to Gov. Whitmer's Education Budget Recommendations

LANSING, Mich. – Following today's budget address from Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, Michigan Education Justice Coalition Executive Director Trina Tocco issued the following statement:

"Gov. Whitmer's education budget recognizes that our leaders in Lansing have chronically underfunded our schools for decades, depriving students of the education they deserve. Her plan to provide funding for tutoring services to all K-12 students is important to help catch students up to their peers around the country, and providing free breakfast and lunch to all public schools will help our kids stay focused on their learning rather than hunger.

"As much as we appreciate the increase of per pupil funding, we know that the realities of our kids' and educational system's need is greater than the current budget will allow. It's time that our leaders in Lansing start talking about where additional funds will come from, because our kids deserve the investment. Michigan lawmakers need to focus on raising new revenue for schools so we are able to fully fund a weighted funding formula that ensures schools are funded equitably, based on the specific learning needs of their students and to provide our children with the mental health support services they need to grow and thrive."

Tocco noted that today's budget address comes on School Count Day.

"It's somewhat ironic that today's announcement of a per-pupil funding increase comes on Count Day, the very day when a handful of absences can drastically impact local school budgets. This is an outdated funding system that must be reformed to reflect actual school district populations and student needs," said Tocco.

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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. Learn more at www.michiganedjustice.org.