

Premium  
Quality  
EDUCATION



Recipes  
for Financing  
Public Schools  
in Michigan

# MICHIGAN HEALTHY & HEALING COMMUNITY SCHOOLS COOKBOOK

Michigan  
Education  
Justice  
Coalition





# MICHIGAN HEALTHY & HEALING COMMUNITY SCHOOLS COOKBOOK



Public school funding in Michigan largely comes from state and local sources, but it has not kept pace with what students need to thrive. Too many schools, particularly in under-resourced communities, struggle with outdated buildings, overworked teachers, and limited support services.

*This cookbook shares what we need to create a system of healthy and healing community schools across our state. Each recipe is created based on the expert knowledge of Michigan students, parents, teachers, and community members, gathered through a multi-year study in collaboration with the National Education Policy Center (NEPC). Dig in and discover what it takes to build a better future for Michigan's students—one recipe at a time.*

For more information see:

[www.miedjustice.org/cookbook](http://www.miedjustice.org/cookbook)

The National Education Policy Center (NEPC) at the University of Colorado Boulder collaborated with MEJC on the research project that led to this cookbook. You can learn more about NEPC's school finance research at:

<https://nepc.colorado.edu/initiative/price-opportunity/>

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# Contents



## NECESSARY SUPPLIES: ..... 7

### A FULLY FUNDED PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM

- ▶ **Phenomenal People:** Prepared, supported teachers and administrators in every school and district
- ▶ **Phenomenal Spaces:** Fewer students per class and better class schedules
- ▶ **Phenomenal Places:** State of the art school buildings, transportation and technology

## BREAKFAST: ..... 15

### SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

- ▶ **Pancakes and Bacon:** Students feel welcome and cared for emotionally, physically and academically
- ▶ **Cereal and Milk:** Problems and conflict are prevented or resolved

## SIDES: ..... 21

### A CHALLENGING AND EQUITABLE CURRICULUM THAT IS ACCESSIBLE TO ALL STUDENTS AND ASSESSMENTS THAT MEASURE REAL LEARNING.

- ▶ **Michigan Salad:** Relevant, rigorous, antiracist, and inclusive curriculum for all students
- ▶ **Grandma's Green Bean Casserole:** Meaningful and reasonable assessment and accountability system.

## MAIN COURSE: ..... 27

### STUDENTS ARE THE HEART OF MICHIGAN'S EDUCATION SYSTEM.

- ▶ **Walking Tacos:** Robust and meaningful system of student engagement in decision making.

## DESSERT: ..... 31

### SCHOOL PRIORITIES MATCH THE VALUES AND NEEDS OF STUDENTS, EDUCATORS, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

- ▶ **5 Layer Cake:** Empowering system of supports for linguistically diverse learners and families
- ▶ **Ice Cream Sundae:** Strong system of supports for special education
- ▶ **Magic Bars:** Strong system of integrated student support services
- ▶ **Apple Pie:** Robust and multifaceted family engagement system
- ▶ **Michigan Bumpy Cake:** Consideration of unique regional needs

## RESEARCH EVIDENCE: ..... 43

### How to Read This Cookbook

Each recipe in this book is designed to be clear, engaging, and easy to navigate—just like a real cookbook! Here's what you'll find in every recipe:

#### Recipe Description:

A quick overview of what this recipe brings to a fully funded, thriving school system.

#### Cooking Instructions:

How ingredients come together to create the best learning environment.

#### Reviews from Michiganders:

Real feedback from Michigan students, parents, and educators who know what works.

#### Chef's Tip:

A helpful insight or strategy to enhance the "recipe."

#### Ingredients:

The key elements needed to make it happen

#### Research Evidence:

The data-backed proof behind the ingredients.

*Now, let's get cooking!*

