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**\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\***

## **Restore Mental Health Education Funding**

### ***Michigan Education Justice Coalition Demands Full Funding For Student Mental Health***

**WHAT:** [Michigan Education Justice Coalition](#) (MEJC) applauds the Legislature for approving an additional \$125 million in mental health funding in the 2024 Supplemental Budget.

Earlier this morning, parents and community members from across the State along with the Michigan Education Justice Coalition (MEJC) delivered [petitions](#) at the Michigan State Capitol to Senator Darrin Camilleri, Representative Regina Weiss, Sen. Sarah Anthony, Rep. Angela Witwer, Sen. Winnie Brinks, Rep. Joe Tate, and Governor Whitmer.

While we are genuinely grateful for the increased funding, there is still a [\\$4.5 billion gap](#) in education funding after decades of underinvesting in Michigan schools. Our network will continue to advocate for fully funded schools, including restoration of \$300 million in mental health funding included in last year's budget, with at least 50% of these funds to be restricted to use for mental health to meet the needs of our children in schools.

**DATE:** Wednesday, September 25, 2024

**WHY:** Michigan children, still recovering from a pandemic, are [behind in basic skills](#) like reading, traumatized by [school shootings](#), and suffering from inadequately funded schools. Students have been struggling with their mental health and desperately need resources at their schools. Previously, the budget allocated \$300 million annually under line item called 31aa for mental health and school safety. Our children deserve fully funded schools including restoration of \$300 million for student mental health.

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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.