

Public Statement

What's Next For Michigan Public Schools

Coalition of Parents, Students, and Educators Denounce Trump's Education Plans

The election results have left us at Michigan Education Justice Coalition reeling for the future of public education. While we still must uplift and celebrate our victories in school board elections across the state, and we had many, our network is deeply concerned by the national and state plans for our public schools.

The president-elect has made no secret that he intends to [abolish](#) the U.S. Department of Education, cemented by his pick of Linda McMahon as the Secretary of Education. McMahon, WWE co-founder, has almost [no experience](#) in public education. Her [history of covering up scandals](#) leaving children open to predatory sexual abuse in her own organization alone should disqualify her. The truth is that it doesn't matter who Trump picks; any loyalist will decimate the federal department and here is what that will mean for Michigan students.

- Michigan would [lose approximately 10% of K-12 funding](#), a huge problem for a state already plagued by a [\\$4.5 billion education funding gap](#) after decades of disinvestment. Trump's pro-business agenda will push for [vouchers](#), putting more money in the hands of billionaires than our babies in the classroom.
- High poverty schools will lose essential supplemental funding from the Title I program, which will severely impair special education.
- The Department of Education enforces civil rights laws that bar discrimination in federally funded schools on the basis of race, sex and other factors. Protections for LGBTQ+, immigrant, Black, Indigenous, and students of color will be put at risk.

One thing is clear after this election - there is no time for complacency. **MEJC will lead our collective resistance.**

We will protect our LGBTQ+ students. "As the parent of a non-binary student, it has been really disheartening to watch our most vulnerable children be vilified for political gain. These kids just want to live their lives. It's a distraction from the real goal: to take money out of public education" says Nancy Oeswein of Rochester.

We will continue to demand fully funded public schools, to advocate for special education, to disrupt the school to prison pipeline, and break down barriers for English language learners. "ELL students, refugee, and immigrant students are already behind their peers. Chronic underinvestment in education compounds these issues to becoming active participants in society, with devastating effects such as underemployment," says Holland parent, Tim Marroquín. "Living in the hometown of Betsy DeVos, we've seen first hand the slow march to

ignorance as a result of privatizing public schools via charter schools and putting people in power that have no business being there.”

We will demand that public money goes to public schools. Period. Our legislators must work together to close [tax loopholes](#) and invest in our students, not in [corporate tax breaks](#).

While the election results nationwide may have left us feeling angry, frustrated, and fearful, **we know our coalition's efforts work**. From Grosse Pointe, to Onaway, to Grand Rapids, Michigan overwhelmingly elected school board members who support MEJC's vision for Healthy and Healing Community Schools. Our school board victories give us hope and inspiration as we continue to grow our network because **people care about real issues** that affect children, not using schools as a political battleground.

The only way to truly protect our schools and our kids is in **our collective resistance to hold those in power accountable for Michigan students**. MEJC will continue this fight, one conversation, one meeting, one event at a time. **Our power is in the way we organize**. Together, we will ensure a strong, joyful public education that prepares children in 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.