



CHOICE, QUALITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY AN EDUCATION REVOLUTION TO FUEL MICHIGAN'S RECOVERY 2017-2018

Because a zip code shouldn't determine the education outcomes for children, GLEP believes we must expand choice, improve quality and increase accountability. We support Governor Snyder's "any time, any place, any way, at any pace" approach to education.

Choice

- Parents, especially those in low-income families, must be empowered to choose the education model best suited to meet the needs of their children.
- Full school choice includes, but isn't limited to: traditional public schools, charter public schools, virtual charter schools, home schooling, Education Savings Accounts, scholarship tax credit programs, and school vouchers to utilize private or parochial schools.
- Over half of the states, but not Michigan, currently enroll over 300,000 students in private school choice programs.

Quality

- Since Michigan lags other states in SAT/ACT and NAEP scores, we must maintain high standards and rigorous expectations for all students, with an emphasis on early literacy and college and career readiness.
- Quality, accountability and transparency measures should be applied uniformly to all public schools.
- We can improve teacher quality through an evaluation system that recognizes student academic outcomes; putting the best and brightest teachers in the classroom; rewarding high-performing teachers; requiring ineffective teachers to improve or leave the profession; and by addressing teacher prep programs.

Accountability

- Delivering on the promise of Proposal A requires an equitable and uniform foundation grant for all students to cover basic, operational costs – along with additional targeted funding for special needs. Further, this uniform foundation grant should follow students to the school of their choice.
- We must honor retirement commitments to existing education professionals while simultaneously passing reforms necessary to ensure the future sustainability of MPSERS.
- Michigan should adopt a school accountability system that provides parent-friendly A-F letter grades to individual schools based on student proficiency and growth, coupled with meaningful interventions to improve chronically-failing schools or close them.

If you would like additional information about issues impacting public education in Michigan, please contact Gary Naeyaert, Executive Director, at gnaeyaert@glep.org or Beth DeShone, Advocacy Director, at bdeshone@glep.org.

Supporting choice, quality and accountability in education.