



Michigan Association of
Secondary School Principals



April 30, 2026

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer
Governor of Michigan
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer,

As the federal government moves forward with its “Education Freedom Tax Credit” plan, Michigan faces an important policy decision regarding whether to participate in this new program. On behalf of school administrators, teachers, board members and advocates from across the state, we write to urgently request that you reject this initiative that would have significant, lasting consequences for Michigan’s public schools.

While proponents present this initiative as a way to expand educational opportunity, in practice, it operates as a voucher-like tax credit program that risks widening existing educational inequities. By creating incentives for contributions to private scholarship-granting organizations, the program would redirect taxpayer-supported resources and attention away from the public schools that educate the vast majority of Michigan’s students.

Further, Michigan's Constitution has long prohibited the use of public funds for nonpublic schools — a protection Michigan voters have reaffirmed repeatedly. Participation in the federal Education Freedom Tax Credit program would conflict with that prohibition and undermine a foundational commitment to public education that Michiganders across the political spectrum continue to support

A recent survey of Michigan voters, in fact, showed that they overwhelmingly want to keep our state out of this program, by a margin of 61%-29%. This affirms that the broad, bipartisan opposition to ballot initiatives in both 1978 and 2000 that rejected similar proposals remains today, and that Michigan voters want their state to ensure that public tax dollars remain solely invested in their public schools.

Evidence from similar programs in other states indicates that a significant share of participants were already enrolled in private schools prior to receiving scholarship support. As a result, rather than expanding access for low-income students, these tax credits may largely subsidize private tuition for families who already have the ability to afford it, while further straining the resources available to underfunded public school districts.

Any reduction in resources available to public schools directly affects the breadth and quality of programs districts are able to offer students. As the costs of operating school systems continue to rise, even modest losses in per-pupil funding require administrators to make difficult decisions about staffing, programming, and student supports. Michigan’s participation in this scheme could place important educational

opportunities at risk, including arts and music programs, advanced coursework, career and technical education (CTE), and critical student support services such as school-based mental health staff.

Participation in this program would also raise serious concerns about public accountability and compliance with long-standing protections for students. Michigan's public schools are required to serve every child and operate under strict academic, financial, and civil rights standards, including responsibilities under federal laws such as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Private institutions receiving indirect public benefit through these tax credits are not required to serve students with disabilities under IDEA, meaning dollars effectively leave the public system while the public system retains all of its most complex and costly obligations.

Michigan's educators work tirelessly every day to provide a high-quality, equitable education to all students, regardless of their background or zip code. The investments you have championed in literacy and early childhood education represent exactly the kind of sustained public school commitment that the Education Freedom Tax Credit program would undermine. We urge you to protect that investment by declining participation

Thank you for your time, your leadership, and your continued support of Michigan's students, families, and public schools.

Sincerely,



Robert McCann Executive Director
The K-12 Alliance of Michigan



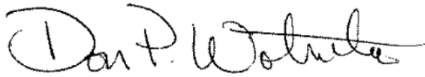
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