



CHOICE, QUALITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY AN EDUCATION REVOLUTION TO FUEL MICHIGAN'S RECOVERY 2015-2016

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: meaningful public school choice, charter public schools, virtual charter schools, home schooling, Education Savings Accounts, scholarship tax credit programs, and school vouchers.
- 19 states, but not Michigan, currently enroll over 300,000 students in private school choice programs.
- Students and parents should not be penalized for exercising school choice options.

Quality

- Michigan must maintain high standards and rigorous expectations for all students, with an emphasis on early literacy and college and career readiness.
- Since Michigan lags other states in SAT/ACT and NAEP scores, quality school options should expand and chronically-failing schools should improve or close.
- 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 parent-friendly school accountability system that provides A-F letter grades to individual schools based on student proficiency and growth.
- Michigan should retire the MEAP test and adopt a next-generation testing assessment which measures both proficiency and individual student growth.

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.