



Dear Families and Community Members,

As we embark on the 2025-26 school year, we want to inform you about a pressing issue that could significantly have impact on our students and schools across Kalamazoo County. Lawmakers in Lansing are considering proposals that could change how essential education resources are funded.

State law requires the School Aid Budget to be approved by July 1 each year to ensure stability for Michigan school districts. Unfortunately, this deadline has passed without an agreement. The lack of a full state budget risks a government shutdown on September 30, which could jeopardize school aid payments in October. The deadlock centers on a proposal to redirect funds from the School Aid Fund, originally dedicated to public education. Shifting these funds not only contradicts the intent approved by voters in 1994 but also poses a significant threat to Michigan's public education system. For our school communities, this payment is essential to:

- Compensate teachers, support staff, and specialists who work directly with students
- Maintain class sizes and provide critical student services
- Keep buses running, facilities maintained, food service available and classrooms supplied
- Fund academic programs, the arts, athletics, and other activities that support student learning opportunities

Our schools cannot operate indefinitely without these resources. The solution is clear: lawmakers should approve a School Aid Budget that safeguards School Aid Fund dollars for their intended purpose, educating Michigan's children and students, regardless of ZIP code. We ask you to join us in urging our elected representatives, especially House Speaker Matt Hall, who plays a crucial role in legislative decisions, to swiftly reach an agreement and maintain dedicated funding for education. By raising your voice and contacting the officials listed below, you can help ensure a stable, well-resourced school year and safeguard the future of Kalamazoo County's students.

Matt Hall – House Speaker (Represents portions of Kalamazoo and Allegan County)

MattHall@house.mi.gov or (517) 373-1784

Julie Rogers (Represents Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo Township, Portage, & Comstock Township)

JulieRogers@house.mi.gov or (517) 373-1783



Matt Longjohn (Represents Kalamazoo, Portage, Oshtemo Township & Texas Township)

MattLongjohn@house.mi.gov or (517) 373-8670

Sean McCann - Senator

SenSMcCann@senate.michigan.gov or (517) 373-5100

Yours in Education,

