



GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER



Major Education Priorities: ★ **Early Education Access** ★ **Literacy** ★ **K-12 Funding**
★ **Postsecondary Accessibility, Affordability and Attainment** ★ **Workforce Education**

BACKGROUND: Governor Whitmer was born and raised in Michigan and graduated from public K-12 schools and Michigan State University. She previously served in the Michigan state legislature, becoming the Senate Democratic Leader, and served as the Ingham County Prosecutor. Governor Whitmer also previously taught at the University of Michigan and Michigan State University. She is married with five children.

PARTY AFFILIATION: Democrat

Early Education and K-12 Educational Priorities



Early Education Access: Proposed increasing funding for the state’s Great Start Readiness Program by \$85M to allow an additional 5,000 children to be served in early education in her budget. Also proposes \$13.6M to increase child care access.



K-12 Funding: Proposed increasing operational funding for K-12 schools and implementing a new weighted school funding model in her budget.



Literacy: The governor has emphasized the importance of early grade literacy. Her budget includes funding to triple the number of state funded literacy coaches.



Additional Priorities: Special education, CTE, teacher pension stabilization, STEAM Education, early college credit, wraparound services, school transportation, teacher voice, and hydration stations to provide safe drinking water.



Vibrant communities and economies are built on the foundation of a strong public-school system through 12th grade and beyond.



Higher Education and Workforce Priorities



College Accessibility and Affordability: Champions new tuition-free community college plans, including the Michigan Opportunity Scholarship, along with the Michigan Reconnect program for working-aged adults. Supports financial aid programs to make four-year university education more affordable.



Postsecondary Attainment: Announced a new state postsecondary attainment goal of 60 percent of adults holding a postsecondary credential by 2030 in her 2019 state of the state address.



Additional Priorities: Increase in operational funding for universities and community colleges and tuition restraint.



We have a talent gap in Michigan. We need to connect people with the skills they need for a high wage job. The MI Opportunity Scholarship will make education and skills training more affordable so that every student is set up for success.





NGA is boldly nonpartisan. Through NGA, governors share best practices, speak with an informed voice on national policy and develop innovative solutions that improve state government and support the principles of federalism.



ACT is a mission-driven, nonprofit organization dedicated to helping people achieve education and workplace success. Headquartered in Iowa City, Iowa, ACT is trusted as a leader in college and career readiness, providing high-quality assessments grounded in nearly 60 years of research. ACT offers a uniquely integrated set of solutions designed to provide personalized insights that help individuals succeed from elementary school through career.