

The background is a low-angle shot of a building facade, likely a school or university building, with a large, dark, circular wheel-like structure in the foreground. The building has large, light-colored letters on its facade, including "UNIVERSITY" and "CENTER". The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent teal filter.

Michigan K-12 Education: Opportunity, Funding and Results

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Educational Choice in the Mitten

(Not Counting Residential Choice)

- About 500,000 (30+%) school-age children are educated outside their home district
 - Thriving inter-district choice (193K): Districts opt to participate
 - Strong charter law (146K in 294 public school academies)
 - Non-public schools (105K): *No public support for Choice*
 - Homeschool (50K+?): Full-time and hybrid

****1 One Size ≠ Fit All: Give Families Educational Freedom***

Funding Trends Tell the Tale

- 2019 capped years of increased funding per pupil
 - Total Revenue (\$14,800); Operational Spending (\$12,500)
- State provides \$13B of \$20.5B total tax revenue
 - Inequities? Foundation Allowance vs. other sources
- 56 Intermediate School Districts: Rest of the Story
 - Growing \$ footprint on Mich. K-12 > 6.3% (2004) vs. 10% (2019)

****2 Assign Tax \$\$ to Student Need, Not Status Quo***

Michigan Schools: Uninspiring Results

- Reading: at or below national average (NAEP 2019)
 - Half of 3rd graders miss state's critical proficient mark (M-STEP)
- Math: bottom third nationally (NAEP 2019)
- Graduation: 83% (81% on time), but 65% not college ready & 24% of college-going grads need remedial help

MDE School Grades Report: What It Is & What It Isn't

****3 Maximize Student Opportunity to Learn, Succeed***

2020 and Pandemic Schooling

- Federal CARES Act pots of money: Winners & Losers
 - Crisis schooling \neq Online education, at-home learning
 - Cyber schools, innovative online programs kept chugging
 - Governor's Order & Continuity of Learning Plans vs. other states
 - What school looks like in Fall? State input, engage parents
- ** *Enhance local flexibility within accountable guardrails***

Policy Recommendations

- Blended Learning, Competency-Based Education
 - E-Learning Days & Innovation Zones
- Smart, Equitable, Flexible Funding Strategies
 - Shift Funds: ISDs, Categorical Grants → Portable Student Accounts
 - Expanded Course Choice, Reading & Transportation Scholarships
- Preserve and Expand Parental Choice
 - Defend charter, cyber funding as needed student opportunities
 - Unlock 529 plans, Ed Freedom Scholarships; post-Espinoza ruling