



STATE OF MICHIGAN
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN CALLEY
LT. GOVERNOR

June 13, 2013

Michigan House of Representatives
State Capitol
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Today I have signed Enrolled House Bill 4228, which makes fiscal year 2014 appropriations to school aid, community colleges and higher education of over \$15.1 billion, more than one-third of the state's total budget. A copy of the bill has been filed with the Secretary of State.

I applaud the Legislature for enacting necessary reforms last year to the Public School Employees' Retirement System, which reduced the system's long-term liabilities by \$15.6 billion, and helped put in place a cap on the amount districts and colleges will pay for increasing costs going forward. This budget includes \$540 million in fiscal relief to colleges and districts for retirement liabilities. The education budget also focuses on improved academic achievement by distributing a portion of funds based on performance measures and continues to encourage best practices in the areas of education.

I also applaud the Legislature for its willingness to invest in more preschool opportunities for our at-risk 4-year-old children. The investment of an additional \$65 million is expected to provide for 16,000 more half-day preschool openings statewide. The school aid portion of the budget totals \$13.4 billion. In addition to \$126 million combined for performance funding and best practices, the budget increases the minimum foundation allowance to \$7,076, a combined increase of \$110 per pupil between the foundation allowance and the per-pupil equity payment.

The community colleges and higher education components of the budget total \$336 million and \$1.4 billion respectively. I would note that there are several sections contained in the higher education portion of the budget that state legislative intent. While the Legislature has every right to state its advice, preferences, or wishes through a statement of intent, such statements do not impose conditions upon appropriations and are non-binding.

In conclusion, I thank the Legislature for its continued support of an omnibus education bill that recognizes the interdependency of Michigan's education system from preschool to postsecondary education. In addition, I thank the Legislature for its timely completion of this budget, allowing our school districts, community colleges and universities to complete their budget decisions in a timely manner as well.

Respectfully,

Rick Snyder
Governor

Cc: Michigan State Senate
The Honorable Ruth Johnson, Secretary of State