

School Funding Crisis

The State of Michigan provides most of the funding for our schools. This funding comes from three main sources. They are income tax, property tax and sales tax. The revenue from all three of the sources has dropped dramatically in the past year. As a result, funding for our schools has dropped much more than anyone ever predicted. It looks like the state will cut our funding at least \$292.00 a student. In March when we made major decisions about this year's budget, the state said we would not see any cuts.

Next year is predicted to be much worse. When we combine enrollment projections, the loss of stimulus money and state aid, we could see budget reductions of well over a million dollars.

We have been reducing expenses for the past few years through staff, program, and insurance reductions along with consolidation of operational services. Our continuous loss of revenue will result in more layoffs and other reductions. This will negatively impact education for our kids. At the same time our funding has been reduced, the state and federal government agencies are increasing requirements for schools.

The state school funding system does not work and needs to be changed. Although we have support from our local legislators, for years the legislature has not been able to make any progress in changing the school funding process. We need parents and community members to contact legislators and tell them:

Do something. Develop a system to fund schools adequately or our students will suffer. The only chance Michigan has for long-term recovery of this economic crisis to have an educated workforce.

To view a video on Michigan school funding crisis see the link below:

<http://www.wash.k12.mi.us/about/msfc.cfm>

Listed below is the contact information for our state legislators who serve part or all of the Genesee School District.

Rep. Richard Hammel (D-MI 48 District)
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Sen. Deborah Cherry (D-MI 26th District)
910 Farnum Building

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Phone: (517) 373-1636
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Governor Jennifer Granholm (D-MI)
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Sen. John Gleason (D-MI 27th District)
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Rep. Jim Sleazak (D-MI 50th District)
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