

EO 2020-35: Executive Action on K-12 School Closure

for 2019-2020 School Year



House Democrats called for decisive action to provide certainty and stability to Michigan's students, teachers and parents. We believe the governor's order delivers.

- » Closes school facilities for the remainder of this school year, unless the governor indicates that it is safe to do so and waives the 75 percent attendance rule since the state of emergency was first declared.
- » Forgives schools for an additional 13 days of closure above and beyond allotted "snow days" and provides another 5 professional development days to count toward instructional time as educators transition to new modes of instruction delivery.
- » Allows school districts to adopt a balanced school year for the 2019-2020 school year and/or to beginning the 2020-2021 school year before Labor Day without having to seek additional approval.
- » Gives Superintendent additional flexibility to issue initial educator certifications and renewals due to barriers caused by the pandemic.

House Democrats made it clear that neither our teachers nor our students should be penalized because of the steps we've needed to take to save lives. The governor's plan shares our commitment.

- » Allows school districts to request additional waivers for day/hour requirements by creating a plan to continue providing instruction that all students can access, as well as committing to distributing food, paying all school employees, offering mental health services, and supporting disaster relief child care centers.
- » Allows districts to develop plans to give grades to seniors, award credits for graduation, certify transcripts and confer diplomas, while also awarding credit for subject mastery based on learning, a portfolio/resume approach, or a culminating activity.
- » Ensures school closures do not affect contributions or accrual of service credits for MPSERS.
- » Ensures any changes are implemented in a way that is consistent with existing collective bargaining agreements.
- » Cancels spring assessments and suspends all statutory requirements that use assessment data, such as the mandatory third grade retention law, for one year.

Although these actions address some of our schools' most immediate needs, we know that the Legislature has a responsibility to create long-term solutions so that our students and teachers are never put in this same position again.

No matter the challenge, Michigan's teachers and educators have never given up on their students — and House Democrats will never give up on them.



State Representative **Karen Whitsett** | RepWhitsett.com

