

# RETURN TO LEARN: *Safe Students, Safe Teachers, Safe Communities*

On Friday, August 14, Gov. Whitmer and legislative leaders announced that they had reached a deal to provide much needed certainty and peace of mind to Michigan's students, parents and teachers while ensuring that their health and safety remain our top priority as the school year begins.

**School districts will continue to have the flexibility to create in-person, online or hybrid learning plans that best ensure the safety and well-being of their students, teachers and communities in coordination with local health officials.**



*Whitmer and Democratic leadership in the House and Senate successfully secured provisions in the agreement to meet the most urgent concerns expressed by Michigan's teachers and administrators, including:*

- » Eliminating the K-5 in-person instruction mandate.
- » Waiving the state's 1,098 hour/180 day instruction requirement, as long as students continue to receive the same course content.
- » Basing the pupil count formula overwhelmingly on the school population from last year.
- » Blocking the outsourcing of virtual instruction to for-profit, private education management organizations.
- » Preventing standardized tests from being used to unfairly punish or penalize students or school districts.



*Additional provisions within the agreement include:*

- » Benchmark testing at two times during the school year to determine any loss of learning and allowing proactive intervention where necessary.
- » Measurable academic goals determined by local school districts for mid- and full-year attainment.
- » Monthly reassessments of school district safe operating plans to account for changing conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

House Democrats know that Michigan's teachers and administrators have gone above and beyond during this unprecedented health crisis to ensure all our students succeed despite the challenges we now face. These tireless heroes have dedicated their lives to supporting our children, and we stand as committed as ever to working closely with them to continue improving this framework to keep our students on the path to a brighter future.