



MDE Legislative Session Priorities

*House School Aid and Education Appropriations Sub-Committee
Thursday, February 2, 2023*



MDE Legislative Priorities

- MDE sent a letter to the governor and legislators on January 11, 2023, outlining MDE legislative priorities for the current session.
- The list of MDE legislative priorities is not comprehensive.



Agenda

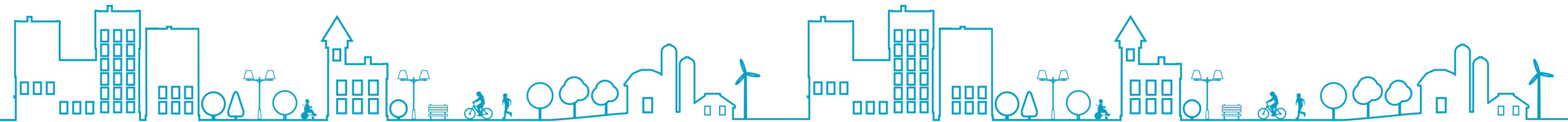
- I. Addition by Subtraction
- II. Addition by Addition
- III. Miscellaneous



I. Addition by Subtraction

The State A-F Accountability System

- *Second* education accountability system, after federally approved ESSA index system.
- Approved 2018 lame duck – redundant – should be repealed.



I. Addition by Subtraction

Read by Grade Three Law

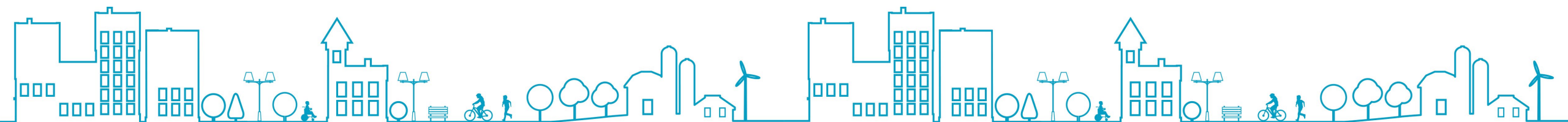
- Retention portion of the law should be repealed.
- Too much time on justifying why student should be retained, at expense of time spent improving student's reading ability.



I. Addition by Subtraction

Educator Evaluation Laws

- Both the teacher and administrator evaluation laws should be very substantially streamlined.
- Evaluations have become enormously time consuming for teachers and administrators and have not improved student achievement.
- Laws need to be distilled to require educator evaluations but to leave the process to local decision making.



I. Addition by Subtraction

Teacher and Counselor Reciprocity

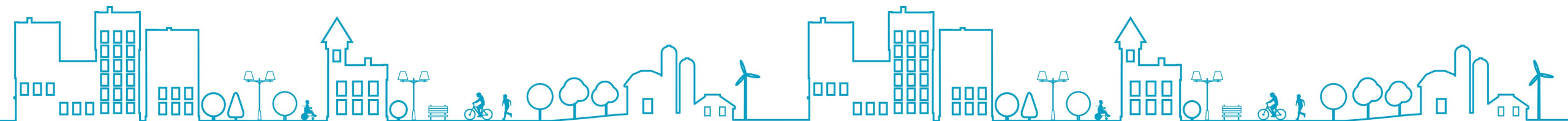
- More than 1,000 teachers in each of the last five years has initially been certified outside Michigan – while significant, could be more.
- Need to reduce regulatory barriers associated with teacher and counselor certification.
- 2 bills introduced last year, but not taken up, would have made this possible.



I. Addition by Subtraction

The Ability of Retired Educators to Help Out in Schools

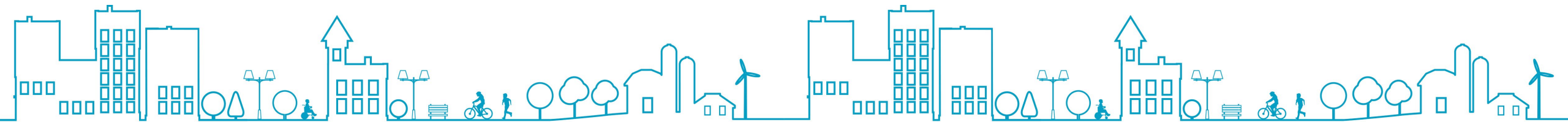
- Last summer, state legislature attempted to reduce barriers for retired school teachers to help in classroom – required 9 months' wait to not affect pensions.
- Period should be reduced to 6 months, **at a minimum for this year**, to allow last year's retired teachers to return to schools as needed and if interested *for the remainder of the school year*.



I. Addition by Subtraction

Support Staff As Substitute Teachers

- Last school year, the state legislature permitted support staff to serve as substitute teachers.
- Amended version of this concept was introduced last session and needs to be passed quickly by the legislature in its reintroduced version.



I. Addition by Subtraction

These last four items:

- Teacher Reciprocity
- Counselor Reciprocity
- Ability of Retired Educators to Help Out in Schools
- Support Staff as Substitute Teachers

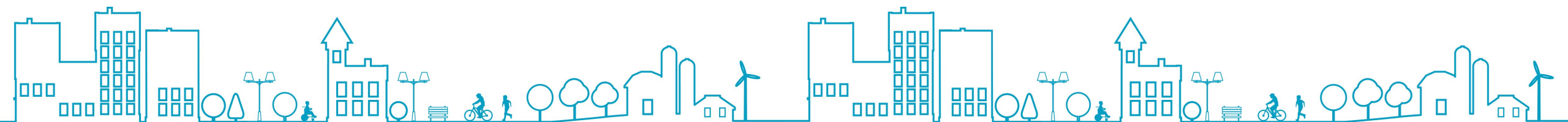
Should be approved immediately by the state legislature



II. Addition by Addition

GOAL 1: Expand early childhood learning opportunities

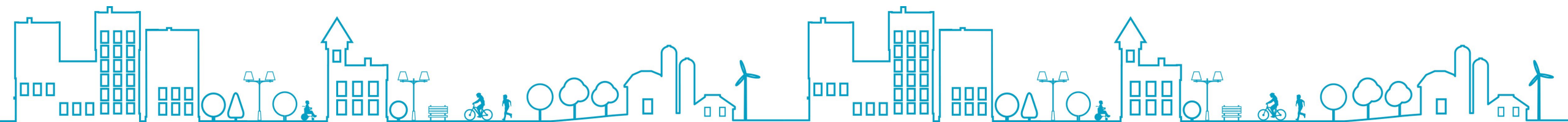
- Appreciate the strong support of Governor Whitmer for universal pre-school for all four-year-olds.
- High-quality pre-school has a strong research base that dates back to the 1960's.



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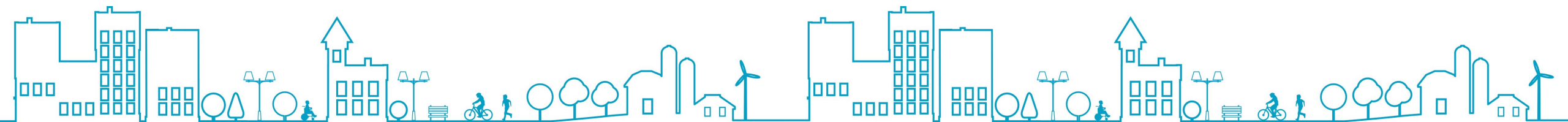
- An expansion of the GSRP year from four to five instructional days a week and from 30 to 36-38 instructional weeks a year.
- Accelerate and incentivize the development of pre-K teachers and expand pre-K transportation.
- These flexibilities **need to be incorporated in a budget supplemental this winter** for them to have a chance of affecting the number of students enrolled in GSRP this year.



II. Addition by Addition

GOAL 2: Improve early literacy achievement

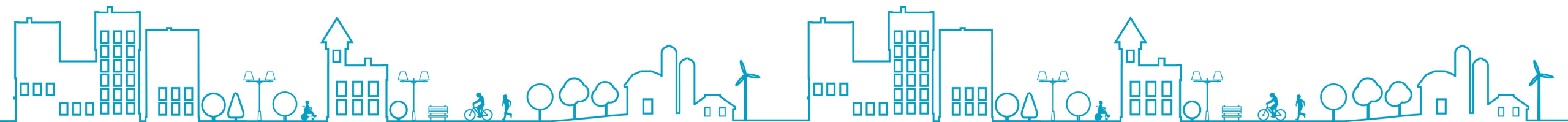
- More instructional time for students.
- Lower class sizes in early elementary in districts with highest poverty.
- Expansion of LETRS training and use of MDE dyslexia guidance.
- Use of MDE accelerated learning guidance.
- Regular tutoring by trained tutors.
- Funding of parent ed/family literacy centers in communities of high poverty and low student reading levels.



II. Addition by Addition

GOAL 3: Improve the health, safety, and wellness of all learners

- Five years ago, there was no funding in the state school aid act for children's mental health.
- Today, there is more than \$300 million.
- \$150 million in Section 31aa--needs to be made recurring.
- Children's mental health was a prominent mention in the Michigan Parents' Council report.



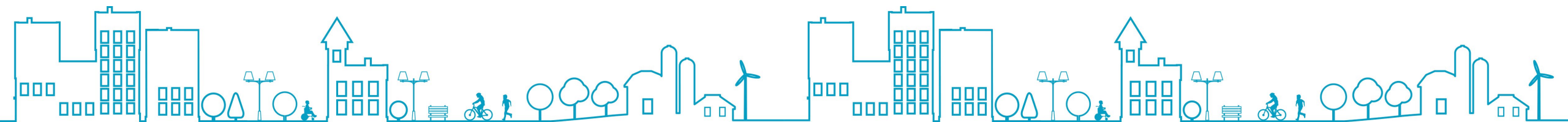
II. Addition by Addition

GOAL 4: Expand secondary learning opportunities for all students

GOAL 5: Increase the percentage of all students who graduate from high school

GOAL 6: Increase the percentage of adults with a postsecondary credential

- Expansion of Career and Technical Education (CTE) - state needs to better fund CTE programs and to eliminate CTE deserts, areas of the state that have far fewer CTE offerings, often because they have no CTE millages to support CTE explicitly.



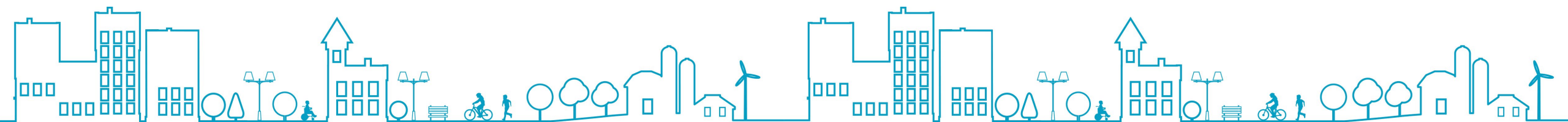
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GOAL 4: Expand secondary learning opportunities for all students

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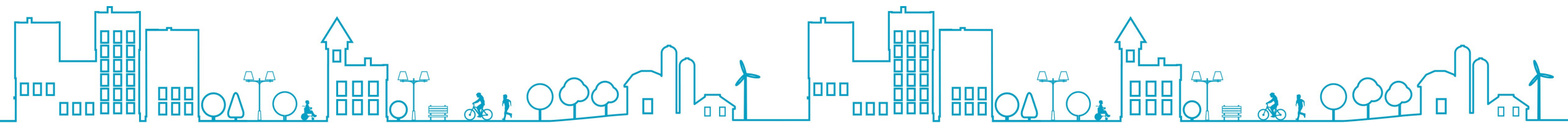
- Dual Enrollment, Early Middle College (EMC), Advanced Placement (AP), and International Baccalaureate (IB)
- Community and College Mentors
- Reduction and ultimately elimination of the home digital divide.



II. Addition by Addition

GOAL 7: Increase the numbers of certified teachers in areas of shortage

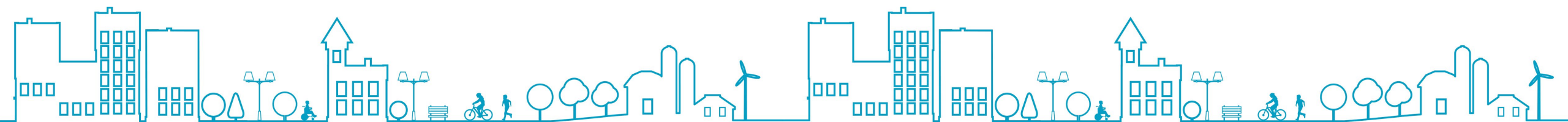
- \$0 in FY20 to \$575 million in FY 23, for a range of efforts to address the teacher shortage, many of these initially recommended by MDE to the governor and legislature.
 - \$175 million for Grow Your Own programs for support staff to become teachers
 - \$305 million for MI Future Educator Fellowships
 - \$50 million for MI Future Educator Student Teacher Stipends



II. Addition by Addition

GOAL 7: Increase the numbers of certified teachers in areas of shortage

- Some promising trends addressing teacher shortages
 - Teacher preparation enrollment has steadily increased in the past 4 years.
 - Over the last six years, there has been an increase in the numbers of Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino teachers.
 - 1,160 FTEs for Black/African American teachers
 - 169 FTEs for Hispanic/Latino teachers



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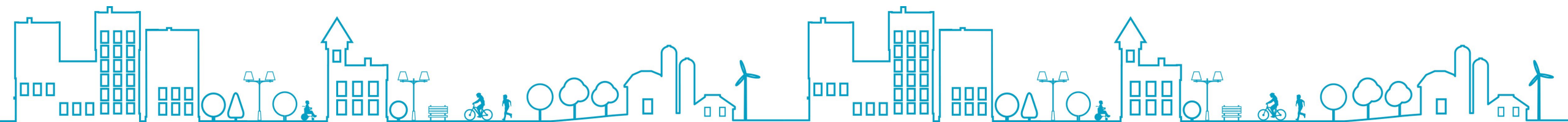
- Some promising trends addressing teacher shortages
 - Teacher apprenticeship agreements recently signed with the U.S. Department of Labor. (St Charles Community Schools, Bridgeport-Spaulding Community School District, Hemlock Public School District, Frankenmuth School District, Saginaw Public Schools, and Freeland Community School District)
 - Innovative Educator Preparation Programs
 - Residency Programs - SVSU - School District of the City of Saginaw, Saginaw ISD; NMU - Eastpointe Community Schools, Marquette Area Public Schools; Aquinas College – Grand Rapids Public Schools; CMU – Saginaw Chippewa Academy
 - Discipline-Specific Expedited Preparation Programs – EMU - Paraprofessional-to-teacher programs in special education in partnership with Washtenaw ISD



II. Addition by Addition

GOAL 8: Provide adequate and equitable school funding

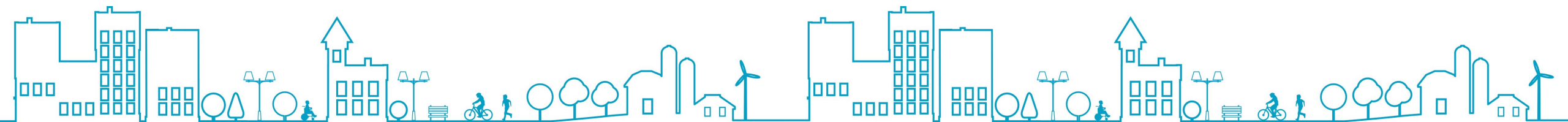
- Kudos to the governor and the state legislature for the last two state budgets that have been very supportive of public education. That said, the governor and legislative leadership know, as do we, that we continue to play catch up.
- 2019 MSU/David Arsen study – MI was last among states *in the country* from 1995-2015 in inflation-adjusted total revenue growth and third to last during the same time period in inflation-adjusted per pupil revenue growth.



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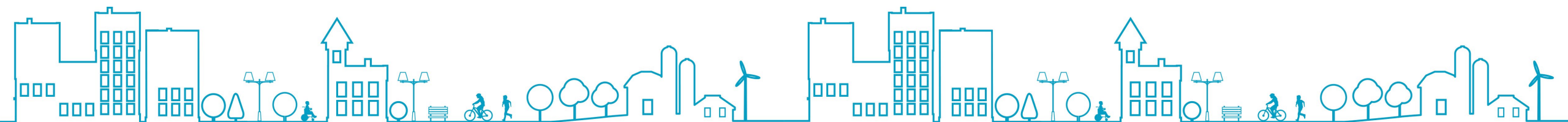
- 2018 School Finance Research Collaborative (SFRC) report noted underfunding in the state of billions of dollars and a need for weighted funding for economically disadvantaged students, students with disabilities and English learners.
- A 2021 SFRC study updated the base funding required, inflation-adjusted.



II. Addition by Addition

GOAL 8: Provide adequate and equitable school funding

- Transportation Funding - a November 2022 SFRC Transportation Study, coupled with a Study on Rural School Districts, further detail the additional funding needs to provide equitable transportation resources across the state.
- School Infrastructure and Capital Needs - for the first time in the FY23 budget, there is an effort to begin to fund the school infrastructure/capital needs of low assessed property wealth districts. These infrastructure funds, however, are nonrecurring in the FY23 budget and need to be made recurring and more substantial in future.



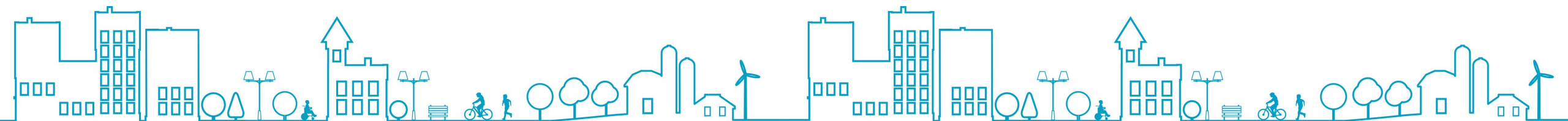
III. Miscellaneous

- **Time** – legislature and local school districts need to take a hard look at instructional time in all forms.
- **Universal Meals** - state should establish universal meals in public schools.
- **Charter School Financial Transparency** - taxpayers should be able to see the same level of detail for charter schools as for traditional public school districts.
- **Students in Congregate Foster Care** – legislature should require institutions that educate foster care youth to provide credits for course completion to students.



III. Miscellaneous

- **Missing Students** - legislature should require the registration of home-schooled students so that we can get a better understanding of students who aren't being educated at all—who are missing—coming out of the pandemic.
- **Commonsense Gun Laws** - state legislature is strongly urged to enact commonsense gun laws that reflect the results of recent EPIC-MRA state-wide poll.
- **Mentoring/Training** - mandatory new superintendent, principal, and teacher mentoring and funding associated therewith, as well as mandatory new school board member training.
- **MPSERS and MDE** - state legislature should amend statute to permit individuals who work in MDE the flexibility to participate in either MPSERS or SERS retirement systems.



Thank You!

