

House Subcommittee on **School Aid**



March 4, 2020



WMTT Perspective on School Funding

- ◉ We support the research compiled by the **School Finance Research Collaborative**.
- ◉ A key part of the research is **equitably** funding schools, ensuring **every child** meets their **greatest potential**.
- ◉ We feel the research should guide decision making on funding.



Foundation Grant

Minimum	Increase via 1.5X formula	Maximum
\$8,336		\$8,679
\$225/pupil increase		\$150/pupil increase

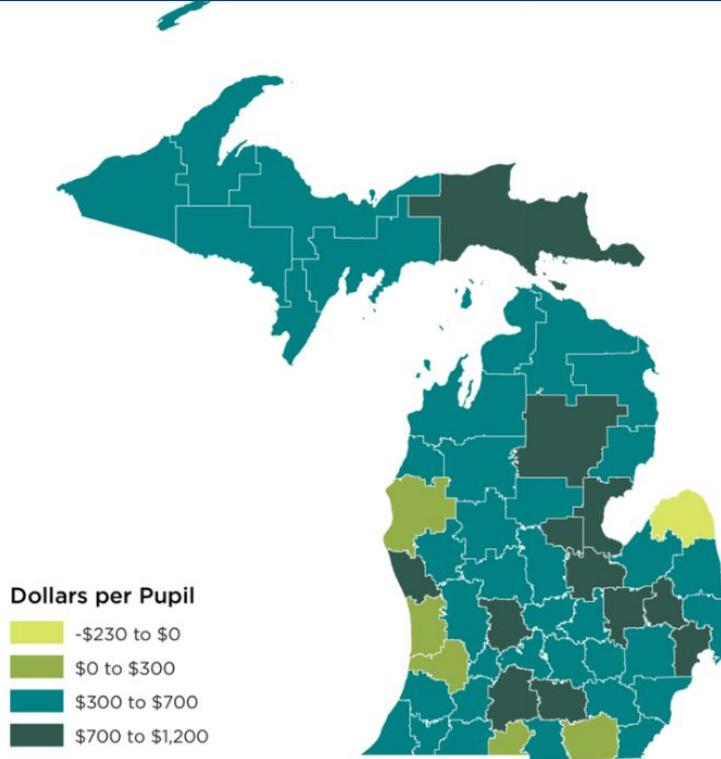


Special Education Funding

- We support additional investment in special education.
- **Statewide** we have **\$742 million** in **unreimbursed costs** for **special education**.
- Proposed **\$60 million** increase (\$120 million over two years) to provide additional **4.2 percent** reimbursement on 4096 costs; total reimbursement of **32.2 percent**.
- Resources go towards covering costs for providing services for children.



General Fund Encroachment



Source: Michigan Department of Education, State Aid Status Report.



Student-Centered Funding

- Per the research, we support:
 - Additional funding for at-risk students. Governor recommended an increase of \$60 million.
 - Increased resources for **English Learners: \$5 million** increase at **\$50** per EL student; total of **\$18 million**.
 - **Sec. 31n** (with flexibility changes) funding to better meet the mental health needs of students.

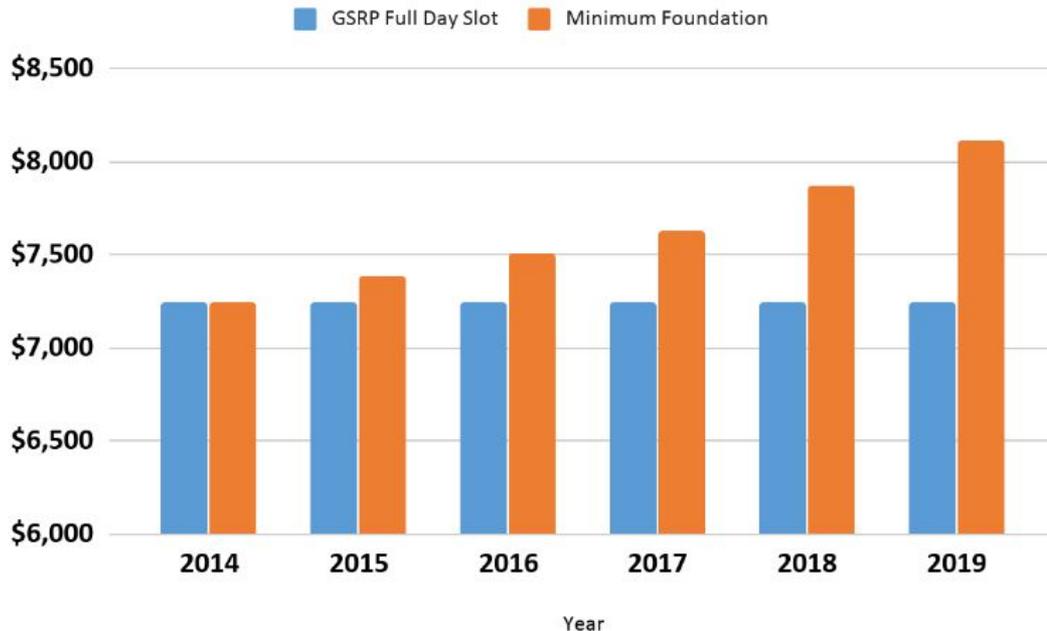


Great Start Readiness Program

- Increased funding for the **Great Start Readiness Program** – first rate increase since 2014.
 - Increase of **\$35.5 million** for a total of **\$285.5 million**.
\$8,336 per full-day experience – equal to base foundation allowance.
 - Increased access to early childhood.



Per Pupil vs. GSRP Funding Full-Day



In 2014 a full-day GSRP experience matched the minimum foundation grant, now it lags behind by \$861 per student.



Rationale

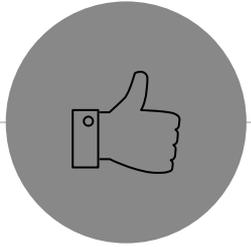
- Research-based requirements for GSRP make the program more costly to run.
 - Staffing, class size, etc.
- Unlike K-12 students, GSRP doesn't receive additional funding in the form of at-risk funding, federal funds, etc. All funding sources per K-12 student equates to \$11,256.



Miscellaneous

- Additionally we support:
 - **Sec. 147 - MPSERS** funding to offset increasing costs in our retirement system.
 - Support for **infrastructure grants** via the General Fund.





Questions?