

Michigan PTA Petition Alert. Decline to Sign!

Decline To Sign! Why the *Let MI Kids Learn* Petition Would Hurt Michigan's Public Schools:

- If signed into law this could take up to \$500 million dollars out of the School Aid Fund annually. The School Aid Fund is used to give each public school district a \$ amount per student.
- Donors can already give to private schools; however, now donors would take tax write-offs out of the School Aid Fund, directly impacting the amount of funding available for public school students.
- Taxpayer dollars will fund these donor write-offs.
- This voucher-style system violates the state Constitution, which requires Michigan to maintain and support a system of free, public K-12 schools.
- Amount of the tax credits would vary, changing the amount available to districts in the School Aid Fund. School districts would have more difficulty budgeting.

On November 5th, 2021 Governor Whitmer vetoed a package of bills that would have allowed nonprofit organizations to fund private school tuition up to 90% of the per pupil allowance as well as give stipends to qualifying public school students from \$500 to \$1,100 for students with Individualized Education Plans. This bill package would be funded by allowing those who donate to these nonprofits to receive tax credits (up to \$500 million dollars annually) from the School Aid Fund. After the Governor's veto, a petition drive was approved using Michigan's bypass law that allows for the Legislature to vote on petitions that only require 8% of the number of voters from the last gubernatorial election to bypass the veto.

Michigan PTA does not support this petition.

Michigan's children and families have been through a very challenging two years. While Federal funding is boosting educational spending in the short term, in 2019 the Detroit News ranked Michigan dead last among all the states in funding growth. 90% of Michigan students attend public school. *Let MI Kids Learn* will take 500 million dollars out of the School Aid Fund and put that money, not in the hands of kids, but in the hands of donors to use for tax credits. Michigan PTA supports families in making the best educational choice for their families, but optimizing funding for all students in their local communities will allow for the best outcomes for Michigan's children.

