

A FIVE-POINT PLAN TO MAKE MICHIGAN A TOP TEN EDUCATION STATE

Priorities embraced by leading education
states can work in Michigan



The Education Trust—Midwest

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The Education Trust-Midwest launched the Michigan Achieves campaign in 2015 to make Michigan a top ten education state by 2030.

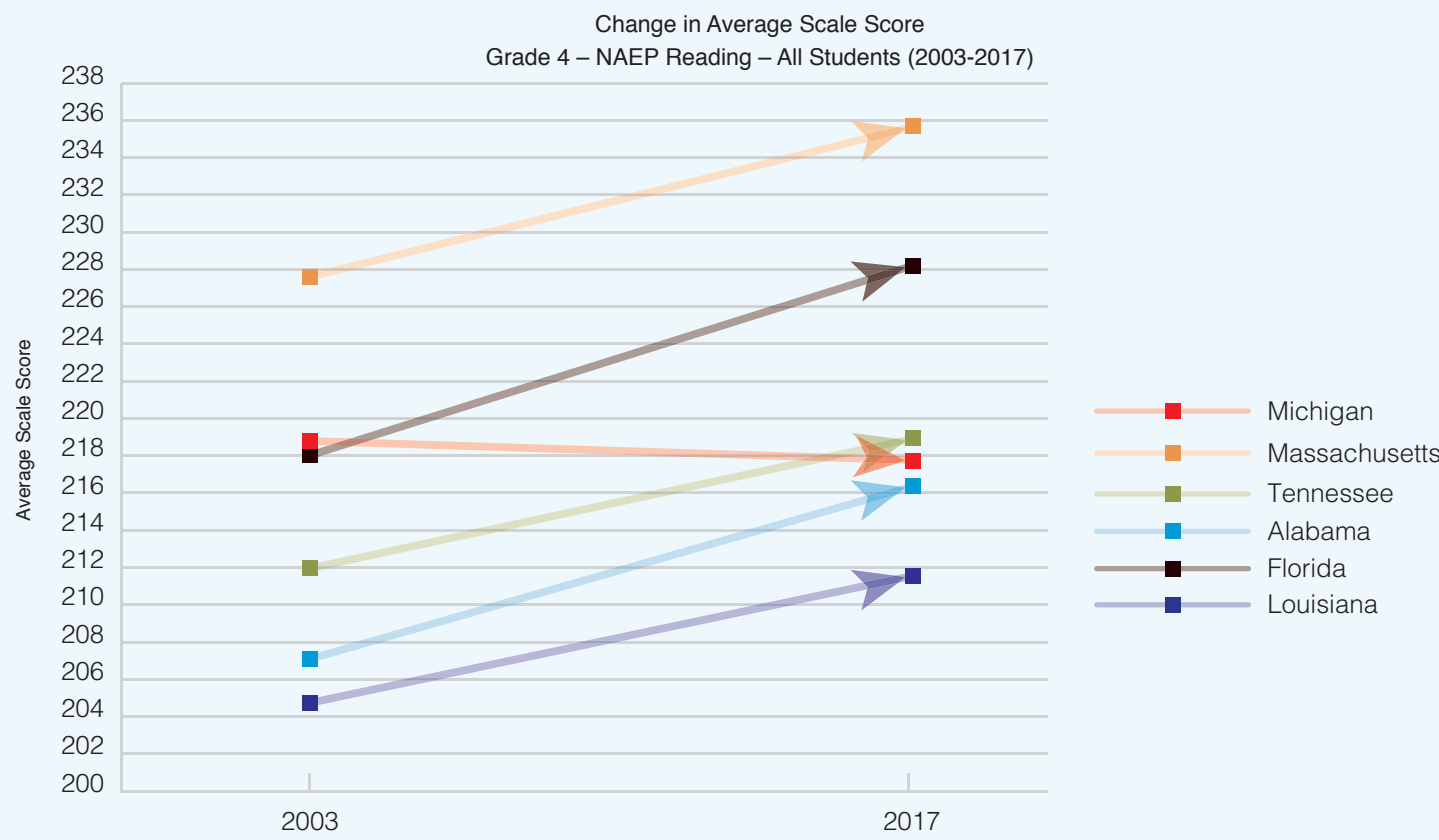
As explored through a series of reports by the Education Trust-Midwest, student achievement in Michigan has remained relatively flat while many states have surged ahead. Michigan students are just as bright and capable as their peers across the country and each deserves a quality education that not only prepares them to graduate from high school, but also to succeed after graduation.

Our educational challenges did not pop up overnight, and will take time to overcome. By recognizing the challenges and focusing on the use of fair and reliable data, sound research, and adequate and equitable support for educators, we can begin to address our public education crisis and improve outcomes for students.



To join the tens of thousands of Michiganders who have joined our campaign, sign up at MichiganAchieves.com.

Michigan Failed to Improve While Other States Made Major Gains



Source: NAEP Data Explorer, NCES (Proficient Scale Score = 238; Basic Scale Score = 208)
Note: This chart summarizes the data trends of Michigan and leading education states between 2003 and 2017. To view trend lines with all available data points during this 14 year period, visit <https://michiganachieves.edtrust.org/state-changes/>

Just as we know that our students deserve better, we also realize that the successes of leading education states can provide Michigan with a roadmap for improving public education for every student. By following this roadmap for success, enacting

research-based policies and supporting educators to make lasting change in their classrooms, the quality of public education in Michigan can be greatly improved, and our stubborn gaps in opportunity and achievement closed.

FIVE-POINT PLAN

There are five key priorities that leading education states have embraced: we believe those strategies will work in Michigan.



STRENGTHEN OUR TEACHER AND PRINCIPAL WORKFORCE: Every leading education state has zeroed in on making their teachers and principals much more effective, productive, and supported. Systems must include high-caliber support, feedback and evaluation that helps educators identify their strengths and weaknesses; and meaningful opportunities for educators to take leadership roles without having to leave the classroom. And it means closing the teacher salary gaps between affluent districts and working-class and low-income districts.



INVEST ADEQUATELY AND EQUITABLY: Michigan has a long and honorable history of being among the top states for school funding. However, we also have among the nation's largest gaps in school funding between affluent and high-poverty schools, which undermines the capacity of the schools and educators to serve the students who most need more support. This gap has been documented by national studies in recent years.



INVEST SMARTLY AND EFFECTIVELY: We need to invest in high-leverage, evidence-based practices. That means rethinking many of the systems used to deliver services and support to educators and students, which have become antiquated and often, are not data-driven. We need to hold systems accountable for ensuring dollars are being spent to build the capacity of educators and schools.



INSIST ON ACCOUNTABILITY FOR ALL K-12 SECTORS: Traditionally Michigan has been a weak state for accountability systems for schools, educators, and other actors. The lack of data-driven, thoughtful improvement and accountability systems has been a great disservice to educators and students and Michigan families. There must be greater accountability at all levels for learning and outcomes.



EMPOWER PARENTS WITH HONEST INFORMATION: Finally, we must do much more to empower parents with honest, accessible information about how their public schools are performing against local, state and national benchmarks. Part of the reason why Michigan's public education decline has gone on for so long is due to the lack of meaningful, transparent public reporting to parents.

Since the launch of the Michigan Achieves campaign, tens of thousands of Michiganders have joined the network of organizations, parents and educators getting involved to ensure Michigan's P-12 education system again becomes one of the best in the country.

Join us at MichiganAchieves.com or text **TOPTEN** to **345345**.