



**September 4, 2025**

**Dear Families and Staff,**

We know you may have seen recent headlines and media reports about the uncertainty surrounding Michigan's state budget. Understandably, these stories may raise questions and concerns about how schools, including those here in Genesee County, could be affected.

As your educational leaders, we believe it is important to provide you with clear, direct information so that you know what is happening, what it could mean for our schools, and how we can work together to advocate for the resources our students and staff need.

That is why, as we begin the 2025–26 school year, we are sharing this update on behalf of the **Genesee Intermediate School District (GISD)** and the **21 public school districts across Genesee County** — so you have timely information and confidence that we are monitoring these developments closely to protect our students, staff, and programs.

### **Budget Deadline Missed**

By law, the State must approve a K–12 school funding budget by July 1 each year so districts can plan with certainty. This year, that deadline passed with no agreement in place. If lawmakers do not act, a state government shutdown on September 30 could delay the funding schools depend on to operate.

### **Why This Matters**

- In a recent statewide survey, 89% of voters supported requiring lawmakers to pass a budget before the school year begins.
- The current deadlock involves a proposal to divert dollars from the School Aid Fund — money voters were promised in 1994 would be dedicated to K–12 education — to other priorities such as road repairs.
- According to the same survey, 85.7% of voters oppose using School Aid Fund dollars for fixing roads.

### **Current Impact to Districts**

According to a survey released by Michigan School Business Officials, one in ten Michigan school districts has already made staffing cuts ahead of this academic year due to budget uncertainty:

- 11% of districts had classroom personnel layoffs
- 15% had non-classroom personnel layoffs
- 42% reduced staff through attrition
- 27% made non-staff spending cuts

Districts also reported delaying building maintenance, increasing workloads for staff, and raising class sizes — all of which have direct impacts on students.

### **Future Impact on Districts**

If a budget is not passed, we could miss our first scheduled state aid payment on **October 20, 2025**. That payment is critical for:

- Compensating teachers and staff who work directly with students
- Maintaining class sizes and student support services
- Operating buses and supplying classrooms
- Funding academic programs, arts, athletics, and activities, including early childhood programs

Our schools cannot operate indefinitely without these resources, or the confidence that they will be available.

### **What Needs to Happen**

The solution is clear: lawmakers must approve a K–12 budget that protects the School Aid Fund for its original purpose — **educating Michigan’s children**.

### **How You Can Help**

Please join us in urging our elected officials to act quickly. You can contact your state lawmakers with this information and share with them why timely, protected school funding matters to you and your family.

- Michigan Senate <https://senate.michigan.gov/>
- Michigan House of Representatives <https://www.house.mi.gov/Index>

Our students deserve a stable, fully- funded school year. **Together, as a county, we can ensure their learning continues without interruption.**

On behalf of the Genesee Intermediate School District and the 21 public school districts of Genesee County, thank you for your partnership and support.

**Sincerely,**

Tina Case, Superintendent, Atherton Community Schools  
Dr. Jendayi Gardner, Superintendent, Beecher Community Schools  
Trisha Cherveney, Superintendent, Bendle Public Schools  
Dr. Kristy Spann, Superintendent, Bentley Community School District  
Gina Ryan, Superintendent, Carman-Ainsworth Community Schools  
Lisa Taylor, Superintendent, Clio Area Schools  
Matthew Lobban, Superintendent, Davison Community Schools  
Dr. Doug Busch, Superintendent, Fenton Area Public Schools  
Matthew Shanafelt, Superintendent, Flushing Community Schools  
Kevelin Jones, Superintendent, Flint Community Schools  
Brett Young, Superintendent, Genesee School District  
Dr. Steven Tunnickliff, Superintendent, Genesee Intermediate School District  
Mike Baszler, Superintendent, Goodrich Area Schools  
Dr. Trevor Alward, Superintendent, Grand Blanc Community Schools

Paul Gaudard Superintendent, Kearsley Community Schools  
Julie Williams, Superintendent, Lake Fenton Community Schools  
Dr. James Yake, Superintendent, LakeVille Community School District  
Russ Ciesielski, Superintendent, Linden Community Schools  
Dr. Linden Moore, Superintendent, Montrose Community School District  
Mickie Kujat, Superintendent, Mt. Morris Consolidated Schools  
James Kitchen, Interim Superintendent, Swartz Creek Community Schools  
Leslie Key, Superintendent, Westwood Heights Schools