

2026

# Michigan Legislative Agenda

Teach Plus believes that all students should have the opportunity to achieve their potential in an education system defined by its commitment to opportunity, responsiveness to individual needs, and ability to prepare students for postsecondary success. We support teacher leaders across Michigan in exercising their leadership to shape education policy, advancing equity, opportunity, and student success.

Over the last several years, Michigan has made great strides in setting the conditions necessary for student success. This includes the establishment of the Opportunity Index that drives additional funding to students living in concentrated poverty, and the K-12 Literacy and Dyslexia Laws (Public Act 146 and Public Act 147), which will move literacy instruction in Michigan towards an evidence-based model. We now have the opportunity to build on that momentum and ensure that all students graduate from high school ready for postsecondary success.

## **There are critical steps that state leaders must take to continue advancing student opportunities, leading to economic mobility.**

1. Closing opportunity gaps in access to postsecondary-focused courses, including Advanced Placement (AP), Dual Enrollment (DE), Early Middle College (EMC), International Baccalaureate (IB), and Career and Technical Education (CTE).
2. Redesigning how Michigan funds special education as outlined in The MI Special Education Finance Reform Blueprint (MI Blueprint) [report](#).
3. Expanding the scope of our efforts around student literacy to include support for upper elementary, middle, and high school students and the teachers who teach them.
4. Building and sustaining a high quality educator workforce.

## Closing opportunity gaps in access to postsecondary-focused courses

**Goal:** Michigan will close opportunity gaps in access to postsecondary-focused courses (AP, DE, EMC, IB, and CTE) by 2029. To do this, the state will need to financially incentivize schools to get students to and through postsecondary-focused courses, and bolster the systems necessary to meet that mark, including adequate funding, system infrastructure, and professional learning for teachers.

### Relevant Legislation or State Policy:

- + Texas' [College, Career or Military Readiness \(CCMR\) system](#) through HB3

### Teach Plus Resources:

- + [Postsecondary Pathways two-pager](#)

## Expanding student literacy supports

**Goal:** Michigan will expand the scope of its literacy-focused policy efforts to include support for upper elementary, middle school, and high school students and the teachers who serve them. These interventions include state financial support of evidence-based literacy professional learning for teachers of older students, and the targeted placement of reading interventionists at middle and high schools.

### Relevant Legislation or State Policy:

- + [PA146 \(2024\)](#)
- + [PA147 \(2024\)](#)
- + [HB 5697 \(2026\)](#)

### Teach Plus Resources:

- + [Literacy two-pager](#)

## Redesigning Michigan's special education funding system

**Goal:** Michigan will adopt a weighted funding model for special education that moves our state from an underfunded, unfair, and overly complex system, to one that is student-centred, needs-based, transparent, predictable, and flexible, as outlined in the MI Blueprint report.

### Relevant Legislation or State Policy:

- + The MI Special Education Finance Reform Blueprint ([MI Blueprint](#))

### Teach Plus Resources:

- + [Equitable Funding two-pager](#)

## Sustaining a high quality educator workforce

**Goal:** The Michigan Legislature will pass a series of policy and budget bills that strengthens the state's educator workforce through fair compensation, workload protections, licensure flexibility, and a teacher tax incentive.

### Relevant Legislation or State Policy:

- + [HB 4150 \(2025\)](#)
- + [HB 4151 \(2025\)](#)

### Teach Plus Resources:

- + [Educator Workforce two-pager](#)

