



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Nancy
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
Jenkins-Arno
3. The cosponsoring representatives' names. All cosponsors must be listed. If none, please type 'n/a.' A signed letter from the sponsor approving the co-sponsorship and a signed letter from the member wishing to co-sponsor are required. Attach letters at question #9 below.
Muskegon Area ISD, Dexter Community Schools, Berrien Springs Public Schools, Farmington Public Schools, TalentFirst – all attached below.
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
The Future of Learning Council
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
920 Municipal Way, Lansing, MI 48917
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
FLC will support participating districts, IDSs and charter schools statewide
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
Statewide spending/impact with more than 70 districts, IDSs and charter schools participating from all regions of the state.
8. Purpose of the legislatively directed spending item. Please include how it provides a public benefit and why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding. Please also demonstrate that the item does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution.
The Future of Learning Council will help guide the transformation of more than 70 districts, IDSs and charter schools statewide toward establishing student-centered competency-based models of teaching and learning.
9. Attach documents here if needed:

Attachments added to the end of this file.

10. The amount of state funding requested for the legislatively directed spending item.

4600000

11. Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received any of the following types of funding? Check all that apply.

["Private"]

12. Please select one of the following groups that describes the entity requesting the legislatively directed spending item:

Non-profit organization

13. For a non-profit organization, has the organization been operating within Michigan for the preceding 36 months?

Yes

14. For a non-profit organization, has the entity had a physical office within Michigan for the preceding 12 months?

Yes

15. For a non-profit organization, does the organization have a board of directors?

Yes

16. For a non-profit organization, list all the active members on the organization's board of directors and any other officers. If this question is not applicable, please type 'n/a.'

* Dr. Chris Timmis, President, Superintendent of Dexter Schools * John VanWagoner, Vice President, Superintendent of Traverse City Area Public Schools * Dr. Kelly Coffin, Treasurer-Secretary, Superintendent of Farmington Public Schools * Dr. Rebecca Hutchinson, Director, Superintendent of Concord Community Schools * Dr. Sean Williams, Director, Superintendent of Eaton RESA * Dr. David Richards, Ex Officio, Executive Director

17. "I certify that neither the sponsoring representative nor the sponsoring representative's staff or immediate family has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the legislatively directed spending item."

Yes, this is correct

18. Anticipated start and end dates for the legislatively directed spending item:

2025-2028 (3 consecutive school years)

19. "I hereby certify that all information provided in this request is true and accurate."

Yes

A Smart \$4.6 Million Investment to TRANSFORM EDUCATION IN MICHIGAN



Michigan's Education System IS AT A BREAKING POINT



Today's K–12 education system wasn't built for today's students, teachers, or economy. Outdated policies, rigid practices, and one-size-fits-all instruction leave students disengaged, teachers burnt out, and employers struggling to find a skilled workforce.

We're not just facing a challenge—we're facing a crisis.

But we also have an opportunity. Michigan can become a national leader in modern, student-centered learning—if we invest wisely and act now.



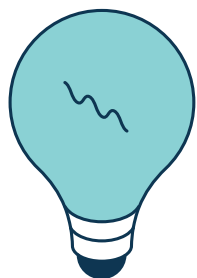
The Future of Learning Council (FLC): PROVEN ENGINE FOR CHANGE

Founded in 2021, the FLC is a grassroots network of nearly 70 Michigan school districts—public, charter, and ISDs—working together to implement **Personalized Competency-Based Learning (PCBL)**.

PCBL empowers students to learn at their own pace, focuses on mastery—not seat time—and helps educators personalize instruction to meet real student needs.

FLC districts meet monthly, share resources, tackle policy barriers, and test new practices in real classrooms. **This isn't theory—it's action.**

Recognized as a leading voice in education innovation, the FLC is a trusted source for school leaders working to design and implement transformative learning models.



WHAT'S THE ASK?

We are seeking a \$4.6 million investment over three years to scale what's already working—and **accelerate transformation across Michigan.**



**FUTURE OF
LEARNING COUNCIL**
EVERY CHILD. EVERY DAY.

FutureofLearningCouncil.org
920 Municipal Way | Lansing, Michigan 48917

THE PLAN

A Three-Part Statewide Strategy

Your investment will directly support:



Tailored Cohorts + Professional Development

Multiple cohorts will be designed to guide districts through PCBL adoption based on readiness. Monthly workshops, virtual PD, and a curated Learning Library will give teachers practical tools they can use right away.



Transformation Loops

Districts will move through cycles of design, implementation, and reflection—building momentum, spreading best practices, and continuously improving.



Celebrations of Learning

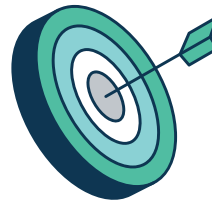
Local and statewide events will showcase success, build public awareness, and inspire even more districts to join the movement.

OUTCOMES:

Measurable. Sustainable. Scalable.

With this funding, we will deliver:

- **Higher student engagement and achievement** through personalized instruction and real-world learning.
- **Improved educator retention and satisfaction** by reigniting passion and reducing burnout.
- **A scalable, proven model** that can shape state policy and be replicated in other states.
- **Community empowerment** through deep engagement with families, businesses, and local leaders.



PROOF

It Works.

Nearly
70 Districts are
already collaborating.

Dozens of schools are **actively implementing PCBL.**

Educators are transforming their practice, and **students are responding with greater engagement and ownership.**

This work is being done today—on limited budgets and sheer passion.

NOW IT'S TIME TO SCALE IT.

MICHIGAN

CAN'T AFFORD TO WAIT

This is more than a grant request. It's an invitation to lead. A \$4.6 million investment in the Future of Learning Council will:

- **Support teachers.**
- **Empower students.**
- **Rebuild Michigan's education system from the inside out.**

Let's build an education system that works—for everyone.

Signed by Educational Leaders from Across Michigan

Dr. David Richards
Executive Director, Future of Learning Council

Dr. Chris Timmis
Superintendent, Dexter Community Schools

Dr. John VanWagoner
Superintendent, Traverse City Area Public Schools

Dr. Kelly Coffin
Superintendent, Farmington Public Schools

Dr. Sean Williams
Superintendent, Eaton RESA

Dr. Rebecca Hutchinson
Superintendent, Concord Community Schools



DEXTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Christopher Timmis, Ed.D., Superintendent
Bates School 2704 Baker Road, Dexter, Michigan 48130
(734) 424-4100 ext.1001 fax (734) 424-4112
timmisc@dexterschools.org

April 21, 2025

Dear Michigan Legislators,

Please accept this letter of support for the funding request for the Future of Learning Council (FLC) in its commitment to improving Michigan schools for all kids. Dexter Community Schools is a founding member of the FLC and the benefits to our teachers and students are evident every day in our schools.

Over the past several years, Dexter Community Schools has sent a team of administrators and teachers to monthly FLC trainings. The teams have been deeply engaged in changing our schools to better meet the needs of every Dexter student through increasing engagement in their learning and the relevance of their learning. Between monthly meetings, our teachers and administrators continue the learning and implementation cycles outlined in the monthly FLC meetings. This work occurs both within our school district and between FLC member districts. For example, our district team works to implement the learning from FLC meetings in classrooms throughout the district then works in a cycle with other member districts to share learnings, challenges, and successes to support the work in each district. The power of the cohort created by the FLC is like nothing else available in the State of Michigan and the immediate impact of the FLC's work on benefiting students is clear in all member schools.

The FLC has been successful thus far in developing a powerful cohort of educational leaders and teacher teams with a minimal amount of funds available. The funding request from the FLC would be a catalyst for system wide change in the education system of Michigan. The FLC's early success is already demonstrating impacts on teaching and learning throughout Michigan that I haven't seen in my nearly two decades as a superintendent. The proposal for funding and the overall plan is the first chance to change schools throughout Michigan utilizing a committed coalition of the willing who have been laserlike in their quest to change our schools from within the schools.

Thank you for your consideration of the request. The FLC is poised to truly transform Michigan's schools. Your decision to fund the work of the FLC will have tremendous positive impact for Michigan's students and is the first viable plan to change schools throughout the State of Michigan, at scale. Supporting the FLC is one of the most cost-effective and impactful decision for Michigan students that you can make. Thank you for your commitment to Michigan's students and for your support.

Sincerely,

Christopher Timmis, EdD
Superintendent



DEXTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Christopher Timmis, Ed.D., Superintendent
Bates School 2704 Baker Road, Dexter, Michigan 48130
(734) 424-4100 ext.1001 fax (734) 424-4112
timmisc@dexterschools.org

Dexter Community Schools

April 21, 2025

Representative Nancy Jenkins-Arno
N-798 House Office Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Representative Jenkins-Arno:

On behalf of the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District (MAISD), I write in strong support of the \$4.6 million funding request for the statewide initiative of the Future of Learning Council (FLC). This investment is critical to ensuring Michigan remains a leader in driving innovation in education that is student-centered and future-focused.

As a committed partner of the FLC, our organization has directly benefited from its bold vision and collaborative approach. The Council's work aligns closely with our strategic plan of engaging our local school districts in exploring the future of education. Through our engagement with FLC, we've had access to high-quality thought leadership, policy design, and networked learning opportunities that have informed our local strategies and elevated our work on reimagining teaching and learning.

The statewide project under consideration will allow our team to more effectively focus, scale, and sustain this work. With coordinated support and infrastructure, we can better pilot and implement innovative practices, leverage resources efficiently, and engage more deeply in statewide conversations about the future of learning. This funding would enable us to move from isolated innovation to more systemic transformation, something that is essential for long-term impact across all Michigan schools.

We are grateful for your leadership and ask for your full support of this funding request. The Future of Learning Council represents the kind of forward-thinking, collaborative work that our students, and our state, need and deserve.

Sincerely,



Randy Lindquist
Superintendent



Eaton Regional Education Service Agency
1790 E. Packard Highway
Charlotte, MI 48813

April 22, 2025

Dear Honorable Members of the Michigan Legislature,

On behalf of the Eaton Regional Education Service Agency, I respectfully urge your support for the allocation of **\$4.6 million** in funding for the **Future of Learning Council (FLC)** to scale and implement **competency-based education (CBE)** through three structured cohorts of local school districts across the state.

Michigan has a timely opportunity to lead the nation in transforming public education to better meet the needs of every learner. The FLC has been instrumental in this work—serving as a trusted partner in building district capacity and guiding implementation efforts that align with personalized, mastery-based learning models.

Here in the Eaton RESA region, the FLC has supported our districts in developing a shared understanding of competency-based education and in creating actionable plans for future implementation. Their assistance has enabled our educators and leaders to move beyond exploration and toward readiness. This progress would not have been possible without the expertise, professional learning, and facilitation provided by the FLC.

The requested investment will allow the FLC to expand this work by supporting three cohorts of school districts through direct technical assistance, strategic planning, stakeholder engagement, and high-quality professional development. It will also provide the infrastructure necessary to ensure fidelity, equity, and long-term sustainability.

Michigan students deserve learning environments that recognize individual growth, value diverse pathways to success, and prepare them for college, career, and civic life. We believe this funding is a critical step toward that vision and urge you to champion this initiative as part of your ongoing commitment to innovation in education.

Thank you for your leadership and continued support of Michigan's schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean Williams", with a stylized flourish underneath.

Dr. Sean Williams
Superintendent, Eaton RESA



Dr. Thomas S. Bruce, Superintendent
Berrien Springs Public Schools, MI
4.21.2025

The Honorable Pauline Wendzel Jenkins
Michigan House of Representatives
Lansing, MI

Dear Representative Jenkins,

I'm writing in strong support of the \$4.6 million funding request for the **Future Learning Collaborative (FLC)**—a statewide initiative that has had a direct and meaningful impact on our district and holds promise to transform learning across Michigan.

At Berrien Springs Public Schools, the FLC has been more than professional development—it has become a strategic partner. I've brought **my entire executive and curriculum teams** into this work. They've had **the rare opportunity to collaborate with innovative districts and national thought leaders** to inspire new thinking and drive deeper instructional conversations. For me as a superintendent, the FLC has connected me with some of **the most forward-thinking leaders in the state**. Together, we're tackling big ideas, sharing implementation strategies, and working to assess our collective impact.

Through the FLC, I was recently invited to speak at the ASU+GSV AIR Show & Summit alongside other Michigan superintendents, highlighting how our districts are embracing and **implementing AI in education**. Opportunities like these—**connecting our local work to international innovation**—simply wouldn't happen without the FLC.

The proposed statewide project supported by FLC would help bring this level of collaboration, innovation, and focused energy to more districts across Michigan. While other states are moving more quickly, Michigan has a unique opportunity to jump into the lead—with the FLC as the engine.

I encourage your support of this investment in Michigan's future.

Sincerely,
Thomas S. Bruce,
Superintendent
Berrien Springs Public Schools



High achievement by all students,
where learning is our most important work

Rep. Nancy Jenkins-Arno
N-798 House Office Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909
April 21, 2025

Representative Jenkins-Arno,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my strong support for the Future of Learning Council's (FLC) request for \$4.6 million to implement a transformational approach to K-12 education throughout the state of Michigan. This initiative, led by educators and involving 70 districts, including Farmington Public Schools, is a crucial step towards modernizing our educational model and better preparing our students for the future.

As a member of the FLC, Farmington Public Schools has actively participated in monthly meetings, collaborating with other districts to reimagine the structure of education. The insights gained from site visits and shared experiences have been invaluable in shaping our current initiatives, enabling us to explore innovative learning environments and practices.

Our engagement with the FLC has inspired a shift in our approach to education, allowing us to rethink the concepts of time and space within K-12 schooling. We are currently implementing various strategies, including enhanced teaming structures across all grade levels, the development of our Profile of a Lifelong Learner, and the exploration of competency-based education. These advancements would not have been possible without the guidance and support of the Future of Learning Council.

I urge you to support the Future of Learning Council's request and invest in the future of our children and communities. Together, we can create a robust educational framework that emphasizes collaboration, innovation, and lifelong learning.

Thank you for considering this important initiative. I look forward to your support in championing this transformative approach to education in Michigan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Kelly M. Coffin".

Dr. Kelly Coffin
Superintendent

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Kelly Coffin, Superintendent

33000 Freedom Road
Farmington, MI 48336

Phone: 248.489.3340

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www.farmington.k12.mi.us