



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Tim
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
Kelly
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.
n/a
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
Michigan Educator Workforce Initiative (MEWI)
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
13 N. Washington St., Ypsilanti, MI 48197
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
Statewide. MEWI and its programs currently work with over 300 school districts in every county in the state.
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
statewide
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. This appropriation will support the continuation of MEWI's efforts to bring innovation and best practices to the educator talent pipeline: to grow, diversify, and improve the retention of teachers and school leaders across Michigan, and develop national leading exemplars of statewide talent programs. Programs include:
 - Early Childhood Educator (ECE) Pipeline Support

- Teacher Retention Innovation
- Educator Preparation Innovation
- Teacher & Leader Pipeline Development

The public benefit is substantial: by improving the educator pipeline, more of Michigan's children are guaranteed to have access to high quality instruction every day. MEWI's programs work in districts of all types: from rural, suburban, and urban, large and small, our organization is ensuring more districts have the talent they need for the short and long-term.

MEWI's programs have received strong support from the Michigan legislature in the previous two School Aid budgets.

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.

12500000

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

["State","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.'

Nick Paradiso Benjamin Jackson Lou Glazer Dana Williams Jason Cooper Jack Elsey

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:

FY25/26 budget

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

Yes


THE GOAL: To build on early results to strengthen and transform Michigan's Early Childhood and K-12 educator pipelines through innovation.

BUILDING ON SUCCESS:

MEWI's early successes include [Talent Together](#), the largest Grow Your Own program in the country and largest teacher apprenticeship program in the Midwest, currently serving over 1,100 teacher candidates across over 300 Michigan school districts. Now a partnership between 56 Michigan Intermediate School Districts (ISDs), MEWI has demonstrated its expertise and commitment to working with school systems leaders to innovate in sustainable, transformational ways. As a technical expert, program designer, and convener, MEWI is positioned to do more of this work at other points in the educator talent spectrum. For example, MEWI has successfully recruited nationally respected programs like [Golden Apple](#) and [Surge Institute](#) to build on the educator pipeline, with a particular focus on recruiting and developing teachers and leaders of color; and has partnered with the [Next Education Workforce](#) to help Michigan districts innovate their teacher staffing models. Fully funding MEWI's initial appropriations request will foster the launch of these programs and further develop more innovative solutions.

THE ASK:

In the FY26 budget, fund \$12.5M for FY26 only (of the remaining \$37.5M for the next 3 years) to allow MEWI to continue to bring innovation and best practices to the educator talent pipeline, to grow, diversify, and improve the retention of teachers and school leaders across Michigan.

			Funding Request
			FY'26
Early Childhood Educator (ECE) Pipeline Support	ECE MI EarlyApprentice: Teacher Apprenticeship Program	> Launch apprenticeship programs for ECE teachers and center leaders in partnership with at least 3 ISDs in preparation for state-wide expansion in 2025 > Develop "salary parity" pilot program in partnership with district(s) and community-based providers to inform retention levers for ECE staff	\$3M
	ECE Center Leader Apprenticeship Programs	> Develop center-based staff pipeline programs for staff and center leaders in partnership with districts, providers, and the business community	
Teacher Retention Innovation	Next Education Workforce Implementation Innovative Staffing Support	> Scale support for with 12+ school districts to implement strategic staffing/team teaching approaches in partnership with Arizona State University's Next Education Workforce	\$2M
Educator Preparation Innovation	MI Prep Innovation Opportunity for EPPs	> Launch a multi-stage competitive grant and technical assistance process to support innovation in higher-education-based teacher preparation programs, with the goal of improving candidate retention, quality, and hiring of traditionally certified new teacher candidates.	\$5M
Teacher & Leader Pipeline Programs	In-Kind Support for Talent Together	> Provide in-kind support for Talent Together, including oversight and strategy, communications support, as-needed staffing, innovation support, and board management	\$2.5M
	Innovative High School Pathways	> In partnership with Talent Together, school districts and Michigan-based universities, develop and support innovative high school pathways to attract more future educators into the teacher pipeline	
	AfterSchool Futures - Teacher Pipeline	> In partnership with after-school programs, national experts, and Michigan school districts, develop innovative programs using CTE models to develop the early educator pipeline	
	Educator Preparation Program Retention - Golden Apple	> Expand the Golden Apple partnership to ensure more high school and college students enrolled in educator preparation programs are retained, developed, and connected to districts for teaching roles	
	In-District Innovative AP and Principal Certification Programs	> Design and implement innovative school leader registered apprenticeship and certification programs designed to prepare principals to achieve results, harness 21st century tools like AI, and lead high-quality schools that develop and retain a strong teacher workforce	
	Surge Institute Expansion	> Support, launch and scale statewide educator development programs exclusively for educators of color, ensuring that the racial gap in education is closed by 2030	
			Total: \$12.5M

ABOUT MEWI:

The Michigan Educator Workforce Initiative is a statewide effort that brings together national and local experts with school systems around the state. The MEWI team has decades of experience working to ensure children have access to high quality public schools. MEWI believes that great schools are made possible by well-trained, committed educators who are equipped to deliver their best, every day. As a result of its work in Michigan, MEWI is now viewed as a national leader in educator talent programs and strategy.

The MEWI team has a demonstrated track record of commitment and success supporting educators. One of our core pillars is to recruit, develop and retain teachers and school leaders, as we believe – and research has shown – that talented educators can transform schools and school systems if supported properly.

MEWI combines strong school-based and school system-based expertise, a national network of partners and exemplary schools, and strong support from business and community leaders committed to transforming opportunities and outcomes for children.

Contact:

Jack Elsey – Founding Partner & CEO

Michigan Educator Workforce Initiative

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miedworkforce.org