



THE
**POSITIVITY
PROJECT**

Empowering Michigan Students to Build Positive Relationships and Strong Character

The Positivity Project (P2) is a character education program grounded in the research of positive psychology's 24 character strengths. P2 empowers educators with the tools to build a strengths-based mindset that can improve students' relationships and behavior — and school culture — in just 15 minutes a day.

Answering the Call

After leaving active duty, P2's founders asked a simple question: **What does our country need and how can we help?**

Amid **rising loneliness** nationwide, they discovered a need to empower America's youth with the skills to build positive relationships by recognizing the good in themselves and others.

"Since implementing P2, we have had at least a 75% decrease in bus write-ups, as well as a 50% decrease in recess and school behavior issues."

Jessica Willinger
Lobbestael Elementary
Harrison Township, MI

A Strengths-Based Approach to Character Education

P2 provides Pre-K–12 schools with ready-to-use, 15-minute daily lessons that highlight one character strength each week. Through engaging examples, activities, and meaningful discussions, students gain a deeper understanding of character and how it shapes who they are and how they relate to others.



P2 drives improved attendance, decreased behavior referrals, and stronger school culture

**P2 Reach in
Michigan
2024 - 2025**



228

Schools

12k

Educators

111k

Students

Evidence-Based and Standards-Aligned

P2 is an evidence-based program currently implemented in 228 schools across Michigan. It aligns with Michigan Department of Education standards and has demonstrated measurable outcomes. Schools consistently report improvements in student behavior, student engagement, and school culture.

Impact Beyond the Classroom

Investing in The Positivity Project in Michigan schools is a strategic investment in both individual students and school communities. It would empower students with lifelong tools for personal success and social contribution—creating ripple effects that extend well beyond the classroom.

Hear from Assistant Principal Stacy Downer what it would mean for widespread P2 adoption:

“If P2 reached every student, educator, and parent in Michigan, we’d see stronger communities built on connection, character, and care. It’s about growing not just learners—but compassionate, **resilient people.”**

Many Michigan schools are eager to adopt P2, recognizing its impact on strengthening student relationships, improving behavior, and fostering a positive school culture. Despite strong interest, implementation is often hindered by limited budgets.

This \$2 million funding request is designed to eliminate those barriers. It would enable approximately 200 new schools to implement P2 by covering program access, educator training, and ongoing implementation support.

Importantly, this request does not fund existing P2 schools. It is focused exclusively on helping new districts bring P2’s dual focus on character and relationships to their students.

Schools are ready and willing — this investment will empower them to act.



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To learn more, contact:
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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:
Lake Shore Public Schools
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
23055 Masonic Blvd., Saint Clair Shores, MI 48082
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
will be available statewide
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
Rep. Alicia St. Germaine 62nd District
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. Offering strengths-based character education provides a clear public benefit by helping students build self-confidence, responsibility, and stronger interpersonal skills. These programs focus on recognizing and developing each student's strengths of character, which promotes greater engagement in school, more productive decision-making, and positive relationships with peers and adults.
The Positivity Project (P2) is widely embraced by educators and administrators for its ease of use and tangible impact on school culture. Schools consistently report improved student behavior, stronger peer connections, and a more respectful culture. Several schools have also noted anecdotal improvements in student attendance, which they

attribute in part to stronger relationships and a more engaging school environment fostered by P2. P2 has received broad support from Michigan educators, families, and the local community. It is widely embraced because it is easy to implement, aligned with shared values, and focused on helping students grow into respectful and responsible citizens.

Despite growing interest, many schools lack the resources to implement P2 on their own. This \$2 million funding request, submitted in partnership with Lake Shore Public Schools, would eliminate those barriers for approximately 200 new schools. It would fund curriculum access, educator training, and implementation support, ensuring schools have what they need to succeed.

This request serves a broad public purpose by supporting student development, school-wide culture improvement, and educator well-being.

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.

2000000

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

["None"]

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

Local unit government

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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.'

n/a

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:

Oct. 1 2025 – September 30, 2027

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

Yes