

Key Points to Share with the Governor and State Legislators:

- ✓ Michigan school districts are caught in a political dispute in Lansing. It needs to stop. A student's education should not be held hostage by lawmakers.
- ✓ Our children are our future. Nothing will chase people out of Michigan faster than low quality schools.
- ✓ The School District of the City of Royal Oak is suddenly expected to absorb nearly \$3 million dollars of reduction in anticipated state revenue (\$553 per pupil) even though the school system is now four months into the fiscal year.
- ✓ Michigan's state budget cannot be balanced on cuts alone. Devastating cuts to our children's education are unacceptable. Our school districts have demonstrated fiscal responsibility and accountability. It is time for our elected officials to address revenue and reform.
- ✓ Royal Oak is by no means a wealthy school district. We are a predominately middle class community whose current unemployment rate mirrors that of many other economically distressed communities in our state.
- ✓ Education is vital to the well being of our citizens, our children, our communities, our economy and our future. We cannot tell kids to put their schooling on hold until it becomes easier for the legislature to enact the necessary school funding reforms.
- ✓ School aid reductions in the foundation allowance and categorical funding are unacceptable.
- ✓ School districts must have adequate resources to provide every child with a quality education.
- ✓ More than ever, Michigan must invest in programs proven to boost student achievement, one of the most important elements of future economic growth and development.
- ✓ The US Census Bureau shows Michigan falling behind other states in educational funding, moving from 10th to 18th in the United States. Stable, predictable, and equitable funding for Michigan public schools is non-negotiable with Michigan parents. We expect elected officials to make tough decisions that invest in education.
- ✓ Parents believe that difficult times call for bold and visionary leadership. Reducing state public education funding is shortsighted and will hurt Michigan in the long run.