

PTO Council Advocacy

Ann Arbor PTO Council Guidelines for Public School Funding

Approved Spring 2010

We request that the Michigan Leadership and Legislature:

- “Guarantee school **funding levels are set prior to the start of the school fiscal year.**”
 - It is unreasonable and disrespectful to the business of education to fail to commit to a secure school year funding level prior to the start of the school year.

- “Support schools at a level that provides for **a quality education** based on program cost, not current dollars available.”
 - As parents, we are disconnected from the dollar amounts attached to our children’s heads. What we are very connected to is the quality of education our children are receiving. We are urging legislators to step back from the funding question and set some quality standards – class size, high school graduation requirements – and then determine funding levels. PRACTICE EVIDENCE BASED LEGISLATION.

- “Develop a **stable, sustainable funding model** for school funding.”
 - Education funding should not be a roller coaster ride – it should be known and stable.

- “Prioritize **education funding as the top state priority** against other funding needs.”
 - A dollar spent on education can make claims no other dollar can:
 - Increase economic development
 - Raise home values
 - Build the workforce of tomorrow
 - Improve quality of life
 - Improve communities
 - Benefit every citizen in a community

 - A state has NEVER pulled itself out of an economic hole by spending more on prisons – but our state could set itself ahead of the nation by building the best system of education in the nation!