

Legislative Priorities

COLLEGE ACCESS ADVOCACY DAY
MARCH 21, 2023



The following priorities from MCAN and its partner organizations include ways that we can work together to address the pandemic college enrollment crisis, build capacity, and increase the number of students entering the postsecondary pipeline.

SUPPORT MICHIGAN COLLEGE ACCESS INFRASTRUCTURE

- Maintain and increase MCAN's annual appropriation from \$3 million to \$5 million so that MCAN can best maximize the State of Michigan's historic investments in PK-20 education through an expanded scope of work that includes adult learners, college completion, and workforce and employer engagement.
- Increase investment in Michigan's colleges and universities by no less than 4% each (+\$64 million for public universities and +\$14 million for community colleges).
- Invest in K-12 education to ensure robust high school graduation and postsecondary success through an increase to the foundation allowance of 5%. This \$614 million investment will bring the per pupil allocation to \$9,608.

MAKE COLLEGE AFFORDABLE

- Allocate the base funding and necessary annual budget increase to ensure full implementation of the Michigan Achievement Scholarship—\$250 million plus \$50 million in FY24 to serve additional eligible students in this new, game-changing scholarship.
- Maintain the previously budgeted \$55 million for Michigan Reconnect and expand the program by reducing the age of eligibility from 25 to 21.
- Create and fund a scholarship to support students whose higher education was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic from 2020 to 2022, including those who graduated from high school during that time and those who stopped out of college.
- Appropriate \$15 million in funding to incentivize FAFSA completion for students and schools.

INCREASE EARLY COLLEGE CREDIT

- Increase high school student participation in all forms of early college credit programs (Early/Middle College, dual enrollment, International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, articulated Career and Technical Education credit, and the College-Level Examination Program), especially among low-income students, first-generation college-going students, students with disabilities, and students of color.
- Reintroduce legislation to create the Student Postsecondary Preparedness Fund, which includes up to \$100 per student to remove financial barriers associated with earning early credit.
- Financially—and by policy—incentivize colleges to create Credit for Prior Learning, College-Level Examination Program (CLEP), and other systems to acknowledge competencies already acquired by students. These programs save students money and reduce time to completion.

Michigan Association for College Admission Counseling priorities are noted on the reverse side.

Specific Michigan Association for College Admission Counseling recommendations:

- Reintroduction and passage of legislation to eliminate the requirement that SAT scores be included on high school transcripts. This requirement can hurt a student's chances of college admission.
- Passage of a bill requiring FAFSA completion as a high school graduation requirement. Seven other states have such a requirement—each one with an opt-out clause that is highly effective—and FAFSA completion rates have soared without affecting high school graduation rates.
- Pass HB 4081, which would create a maximum ratio of 250 students per public school counselor.