

Legislative Priorities

COLLEGE ACCESS ADVOCACY DAY | MARCH 5, 2025



MICHIGAN COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORK

- Increase and make ongoing MCAN's state appropriation at \$5 million to best support adult learners, college completion, and workforce and employer engagement in Michigan. In FY25, MCAN was appropriated \$4 million, including \$3 million in ongoing funds and \$1 million in one-time support. We are requesting \$5 million in ongoing funds.
- Fully fund and improve the Michigan Achievement Scholarship and Community College Guarantee with a \$50 million deposit into the Postsecondary Scholarship Fund, expanding eligible time to enter the program from 15 to 24 months after high school graduation, and increasing the Student Aid Index threshold to \$40,000 for students on the bachelor's degree pathway.
- Continue funding Michigan Reconnect, with expansion to cover all adults over 21 and elimination of the application.
- Appropriate funds to support and incentivize high school student participation in all forms of early college credit programs, including early/middle college, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and Dual Enrollment.
- Eliminate the state's priority deadline for FAFSA completion. Package and distribute financial aid in an ongoing manner until the appropriated dollars are completely expended.

MICHIGAN STUDENT FINANCIAL AID ASSOCIATION

- Support students as they transition from Michigan Reconnect to pursuing a more advanced degree or credential.
- Provide additional emergency student funding for wraparound educational costs, including more funding for the Barrier Removal - Growing Institutional Capacity opportunity fund.
- Support MiLEAP with resources for successful continuation of programs, including Michigan Reconnect.
- Provide funding to support students who fall in the gaps and do not qualify for current state programs.
- Streamline state financial aid programs, administrative rules, and reporting.

MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION FOR COLLEGE ADMISSION COUNSELING

- Reintroduction and passage of 2021-22 HB 4810, which would eliminate the requirement that Michigan Merit Exam scores be posted to high school transcripts. This requirement can hurt a student's chances of college admission.
- Passage of 2023-24 SB 0463, requiring FAFSA completion as a high school graduation requirement. Eight other states have such a requirement — each one with an opt-out clause that is highly effective — and their FAFSA completion rates have increased without affecting high school graduation rates.
- Hearings on legislation that would create a maximum ratio of 250 students per public school counselor.

MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGIATE REGISTRARS & ADMISSIONS OFFICERS

- Improve student supports to prevent stop-outs due to lack of adequate childcare.
- Build on MiLEAP's work to connect potential and current students with childcare while they are enrolled in school.