



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

GARLIN GILCHRIST II
LT. GOVERNOR

December 23, 2021

Michigan House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Representatives,

Today, I signed Enrolled House Bill 4294 of 2021, which will temporarily expand the number of eligible substitute teachers through the end of this school year, keeping kids in school during the current staffing shortage.

I am deeply committed to putting Michigan students and parents first and am proud of what we have achieved for Michigan children. Together, we have improved opportunities and outcomes for more than 1.4 million kids across Michigan by:

- expanding the Great Start Readiness Program to serve more than 17,000 additional four year-olds;
- making more than 105,000 more Michigan children eligible for low- or no-cost child care; and,
- making the largest educational investment in our state's history three years in a row – tripling the number of literacy coaches, hiring more counselors, providing MI Classroom Heroes grants to 138,000 teachers, and finally closing the nearly three decades-long funding gap.

And we did it all without raising taxes one dime.

Teachers are the backbone of our schools, and I am immensely grateful for everything they do. Over the last year and a half, teachers and support staff have stepped up and done everything in their power to provide excellent instruction to kids, amidst unprecedented challenges.

Everything we have learned from the last year and a half demonstrates that our kids need to be in school, in person, every school day. As a temporary stopgap, HB 4294 will help meet that goal during this incredibly challenging time.

I look forward to working with this Legislature continue to prioritize investment in developing and supporting qualified teachers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gretchen Whitmer".

Gretchen Whitmer
Governor