



## **Michigan Student Opportunity Scholarship**

Michigan Student Opportunity Accounts would aid individual K-12 students with access to new learning opportunities. During the pandemic, families have come face to face with the frustration of ineffective remote schooling programs. Many have also seen the promise of greater overall flexibility in how education is delivered that can better meet individual student and family needs.

The program would give participating families access to flexible education spending accounts that would open up a wide variety of opportunities that could propel students to success in college, career, and life.

### ***How would accounts be funded?***

- Accounts funded through scholarships from qualified nonprofit organizations, with maximum contributions capped at 90% of minimum foundation allowance
- Donors to scholarship granting organizations receive 100% credit on Michigan's Individual Income Tax or Corporate Income Tax
- Caps on the size of the program starts at \$500 million, but total contribution cap escalates automatically if 90% of cap reached

### ***How would eligibility for accounts be determined?***

- First priority and full scholarships given to free or reduced lunch students, children in foster care, or students with disabilities eligible for an individualized education program
- Other students up to at least 200% of reduced lunch threshold (about \$97,000 for family of 4) should be eligible for accounts on a sliding scale

### ***How would accounts work, and how could families use them?***

- Wide array of possible uses: tuition; tutoring; online courses; dual enrollment; curriculum materials; alternative education, summer school & afterschool programs; occupational, behavioral, speech-language therapies; mental health services; career counseling and training; education-related transportation; AP and college prep testing fees; athletic and extracurricular activities
- All accounts tax-exempt, limited to receiving maximum contribution each year
- Unused funds roll over to future years, available for dual-enrollment expenses

***How would the state ensure organizations properly grant funds?***

- Organizations show Department of Treasury c3 status, incorporation to launch; full IRS documentation and audits to renew approval
- Organizations required to provide parent-friendly information and application process, must spend at least 90% of tax credit funds on accounts
- Contributions cannot benefit individual students, or organization board/staff

***How would the state further guarantee oversight of accounts?***

- Department of Treasury operates under standard procedure for approving tax-credit donations, scholarship-granting organizations
- Department provides annual report to Legislature on program funds, outcomes

***How would the operations of schools and other education service providers be affected in order to comply with receiving account funds?***

- No new state regulations beyond what's needed to oversee program
- No added state accountability or testing requirements
- No requirement forcing schools and providers to alter creed, curriculum or policies in order to participate

Request petitions, join the movement, and learn more at [www.LetMIKidsLearn.com](http://www.LetMIKidsLearn.com)