



September 9, 2025

Dear Families and Staff,

As we start the 2025-26 school year, we want to update you on a critical issue in Lansing that could impact Ingham ISD service area students, staff, and programs in the coming months.

State law mandates that lawmakers approve a K-12 school funding budget by July 1 each year so districts like ours can plan and operate with certainty. That deadline has passed, and no agreement has been reached. Without a budget, there's a risk of a state government shutdown on October 1, which could delay funding that schools depend on to operate.

At the heart of the deadlock is a proposal to redirect dollars from the School Aid Fund—the fund voters were promised would be dedicated to K-12 education—to other priorities, including road repairs. Many believe this violates the original intent of the system voters approved in 1994 to provide fair, statewide funding for public schools.

If the Legislature does not pass a budget, districts will miss their first scheduled state aid payment on October 20, 2025. For all schools, that payment is a major part of the resources we rely on to:

- Compensate teachers and staff who work directly with students, including Great Start Readiness Programs.
- Maintain class sizes and student support services.
- Maintain bus operations, fund academic programs, arts, athletics, and student activities.

We cannot operate indefinitely without these resources. The solution is simple: lawmakers should approve a K-12 budget that safeguards School Aid Fund dollars for their original purpose – educating Michigan's children.

Please join us in urging our elected officials to reach a quick agreement and keep K-12 funding secure. You can contact your state lawmakers at <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Legislature/Legislators> and explain why timely, protected school funding is important to you and your family.

Our students and families deserve a stable, fully funded school year. Together, we can guarantee their learning proceeds without interruption.

Sincerely,

Jason Mellema
Ingham ISD

Patrick Malley
Haslett Public Schools

Scott Powers
Leslie Public Schools

Brian Friddle
Stockbridge Community Schools

Dr. Adam Spina
Williamston Community Schools

Jennifer Wonnell
Dansville Schools

Dr. David Hornak
Holt Public Schools

Dr. Gary Kinzer
Mason Public Schools

Glenn Mitcham
Waverly Community Schools

Dori Leyko
East Lansing Public Schools

Ben Shuldiner
Lansing School District

John Hood
Okemos Public Schools

Andrew Smith
Webberville Community Schools