

SUPPORT STAFF

RECOMMENDATIONS TO MEET STUDENT NEEDS

Michigan's one-size-fits-all school funding system fails to provide the resources necessary to meet the unique learning needs of each student. As a result, Michigan students continue to fall behind.

The School Finance Research Collaborative has completed Michigan's first comprehensive school adequacy study, identifying staffing and support necessary for all students to meet Michigan's content standards and graduation requirements, and the assistance teachers need to meet student needs.

The Collaborative report clearly demonstrates the need for a new, fairer school funding system that serves all students. A few examples:

Guidance counselors

- ✓ Current ratio: **729** students to **1** counselor
- ✓ **Collaborative recommendation: 200 students to 1 counselor**

School psychologists

- ✓ Current ratio: **4,800** students to **1** psychologist
- ✓ **Collaborative recommendation: 400 students to 1 psychologist**

Media library specialists

- ✓ Current ratio: **3,343** students to **1** library specialist
- ✓ **Collaborative recommendation: 1 library specialist per school building**

The Collaborative report's support staff recommendations will help create a weighted school funding system that provides all students with the same opportunity to get a high-quality education and compete for 21st century jobs.

Example: 400-student elementary school

Instructional coaches	2
Guidance counselors	2
Nurses	1 half-time nurse
Supervisory and instructional aides	2
Library media specialists	1
English Language Learners staff	Up to 4 ELL teachers (1 per 100 ELL students) Up to 4 ELL tutors (1 per 100 ELL students) Up to 4 ELL pupil support positions (1 for every 125 ELL students)
Special education staff	Up to 4 teachers for students with speech and minor physical/emotional learning challenges
Psychologists	1

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