

Dear Public Education Advocate:

There has never been a more critical time to engage our elected leaders and communities on behalf of our schools. The only way to ensure your voice is being heard in Lansing and Washington, D.C., is to communicate clearly, with urgency and often, with our public officials. Our leaders must hear our message: *A strong system of locally-governed public schools is a vital priority for our state and our children's future.*

Together we can ensure that state and federal governments protect and respect our communities' right to the autonomy necessary to make the best decisions for our kids. It is time to demand that our schools are fairly and adequately supported so they have the capacity to continue to excel and drive the state's economy. Further, our leaders must partner with us to make sure that every student has access to a comprehensive system of supports to make certain all students have a chance to succeed.

As the new legislature prepares to be sworn in next year, we are asking you to take the time to sign up for important updates on what lawmakers are planning for education.

Please visit ENGAGE at <http://tricityalliance.org/take-action>; after you register you will automatically receive:

- A monthly update through the ENGAGE website
- Resources, information and podcasts available at *Million Michigan Voices* (www.millionmichiganvoices.com)
- A suggested letter to your legislator introducing yourself
- Action Alerts to help ensure your voice is heard by the elected official who work for you
- Tips and tools to guarantee your legislators keep you informed on education issues
- Toolkits to help you reach out to your friends and neighbors to encourage others to get involved

Thank you for your tireless efforts as an advocate for your local public schools. Without you, special interests intent on weakening public education would have already turned the tide against our schools and educators. There is too much at stake for public education supporters to remain silent, and much we can still do to voice the need for Michigan to do what's right for our kids.



Oakland Schools