

Resolution to Provide Flexibility Regarding Daily Attendance Requirements

Whereas, the East Lansing School District, and many others across the state, have faced challenges in maintaining in-person instruction due to illness, staffing shortages, noncredible threats and inclement weather; and

Whereas, when our attendance rates fell below 75%, we faced the tough decision of closing for the day or facing a financial penalty; and

Whereas, many districts may be nearing or have already surpassed the six days that they are permitted to close, East Lansing School District is currently at 4 days and

Whereas, by lowering the 75% districtwide attendance threshold for the 2021-2022 school year that is required by MCL 388.1701(3), districts will have more flexibility to maintain in-person instruction; and

Whereas, this change would remove the financial penalty associated with offering safe in-person instruction even when presented with lower-than-average attendance; and

Whereas, this flexibility would also help schools avoid extending their academic calendars into mid-to-late June creating more challenges for families; and

Whereas, if current trends continue and flexibility is not given, more than a third of Michigan's school districts will be forced to make up school days by extending the school year; and

Whereas, while the calendar year is only beginning, the school year is nearly halfway over, so eliminating this policy that disincentivizes in-person instruction is a matter of great urgency; and

Now, therefore it be resolved, that the East Lansing Board of Education urges the Legislature to act now to provide flexibility for districts and adjust the 75% attendance requirement found in MCL 388.1701(3); and

Be it further resolved, that copies of this resolution be shared with the Representatives and Senators for East Lansing School District.

Adopted: February 28, 2022