

May UniServ Director  
ReportCapital Area UniServ  
Office June 2021



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Good afternoon all!

Sorry I cannot be with you today.

The end of the year is near.

Elections are coming!

Bargaining is underway!

Remember to check your NEA Free Insurance Policy, ORS retirement account, and your social security account for updates and assign your beneficiary. As always, I am only a text, phone call or email away.

Take good care.

*Ginny Bollwahn*

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*"Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world"*  
*Nelson Mandela*



<https://www.nea.org/professional-excellence>



## **MEA Week in Review: 6/1/21**

### ***Serving Our Members***

#### **[“MEA President statement on Whitmer K-12 funding recommendations with additional state revenue”](#)**

(MEA.org, May 27)

A statement from MEA President Paula Herbart in response to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s proposals for how to use additional state revenue to fund public education.

#### **[“Bill to pause reading retention – and reinstate it for next year’s 4th graders – on committee agenda”](#)**

(MEA.org, May 26)

The Senate Education & Workforce Committee announced late Tuesday that it would take up a revised version of SB 265 at a hearing today, considering new language that would delay the implementation of third-grade reading retention – only to have it apply to BOTH 3rd and 4th graders next year.

#### **[“SOS Benson Urges Pushback Against Attacks on Voting Rights”](#)** (MEA.org, May 26)

Every Wednesday for the past several weeks, Republicans in the state Senate Elections Committee have held hearings on parts of a 39-bill package to restrict voters’ access to the ballot box in line with similar GOP moves across the country. Ever since, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson has been ringing the alarm bell. Partisan attempts to dismantle voting rights should be an urgent priority for anyone who cares about democracy, she warns.

### ***MEA in the News***

#### **[“Students and schools are struggling during the pandemic. Here’s what’s in Whitmer’s recovery plan.”](#)**

(Michigan Advance, May 28)

Many Michigan students are struggling with academic performance and social and emotional health, teachers are suffering from burnout and colleges are experiencing plunging enrollment rates during the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **[“Pandemic slump: The pandemic’s effects on academic progress”](#)** (WNEM, May 26)

Last week, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer unveiled the Michigan Blueprint for Comprehensive Student Recovery in an effort to combat the pandemic's effects on students. It covers not only the impact on academic progress, but

also emotional, physical and mental health.

[“COVID-19 has exacerbated the teacher shortage crisis in Michigan”](#) (WCMU, May 25)

Educators have been in high demand in Michigan for years, and COVID-19 has only exacerbated the teacher shortage crisis. What was already an issue before the pandemic is now what Michigan Education Association spokesperson David Crim called a “dire crisis.”

### **Big Picture: Top Education Stories**

[“Michigan GOP pushes critical race, transgender bills as school funding in limbo”](#) (Bridge Magazine, May 28)

LANSING — An average of two transgender athletes a year ask to play in Michigan high school sports. Educators say critical race theory isn’t even taught in high schools. And no government here is trying to require that children get the COVID-19 vaccine.

Yet Republican lawmakers in recent weeks have rushed to bar these rare or non-existent practices, leaning into divisive wedge issues with legislation that may fire up conservative voters but stands little chance of becoming law under Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

[“Whitmer proposes eliminating longtime school funding gap”](#) (Associated Press, May 27)

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Gov. Gretchen Whitmer on Thursday proposed using a budget surplus to finally eliminate a funding gap among K-12 districts, 27 years after Michigan overhauled the financing of public education.

[“State GOP lawmakers try to limit teaching about race, racism”](#) (Detroit News, May 29)

Raleigh, N.C. – Teachers and professors in Idaho will be prevented from “indoctrinating” students on race. Oklahoma teachers will be prohibited from saying certain people are inherently racist or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously. Tennessee schools will risk losing state aid if their lessons include particular concepts about race and racism.



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