

Michigan Kindergarten Teacher Opinion Survey*

Top 10



1. 98% OF MICHIGAN KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS SAY IT IS IMPORTANT FOR MICHIGAN TO MAKE A **SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT** IN EARLY CHILDHOOD SUPPORTS AND SERVICES.



2. 97% OF MICHIGAN KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS SAY IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE A COMMUNITY ENTITY, SUCH AS A **GREAT START COLLABORATIVE**, THAT FOCUSES ON THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN 0-5.



3. 90% OF MICHIGAN KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS SAY IT IS IMPORTANT FOR INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND UNIONS TO ACTIVELY SUPPORT A SCHOOL READINESS AGENDA FOR MICHIGAN CHILDREN, EVEN IF IT MEANS PUTTING SOME **SCHOOL AID FUNDS** INTO **EARLY CHILDHOOD** EFFORTS.



4. ACCORDING TO MICHIGAN KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS, ON AVERAGE, ONLY **65%** OF CHILDREN ENTERED KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOMS THIS YEAR **READY TO LEARN** THE CURRICULUM.



5. MICHIGAN KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS RANK “NOT PARTICIPATING IN A **PRESCHOOL** PROGRAM AT AGE 4” AS A MAIN FACTOR CONTRIBUTING TO STUDENTS STARTING SCHOOL ACADEMICALLY BEHIND.



6. 86% OF MICHIGAN KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS REPORT THAT STUDENTS WHO ARE BEHIND ACADEMICALLY AT KINDERGARTEN ENTRANCE HAVE AN **IMPACT** ON THEIR ABILITY TO EFFECTIVELY PROVIDE INSTRUCTION TO THE **REST OF THE CLASS**.



7. 32% OF MICHIGAN KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS WERE **NOT SATISFIED** ** WITH THE ABILITIES OF THEIR KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS WHEN THEY STARTED SCHOOL THIS YEAR, WITH AN ADDITIONAL 50% BEING ONLY **SOMEWHAT SATISFIED**.



8. IN COMPARISON, **ONLY 10%** OF MICHIGAN KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS WERE NOT SATISFIED** WITH THE ABILITIES OF THOSE KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS WHO HAD ATTENDED A **GREAT START READINESS PROGRAM** (STATE-FUNDED PRESCHOOL FOR EDUCATIONALLY DISADVANTAGED 4 YEAR OLDS).



9. 97% OF MICHIGAN KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS BELIEVE THAT IT IS MORE **COST-EFFECTIVE** IN THE LONG TERM TO PREPARE CHILDREN **BEFORE** THEY ENTER KINDERGARTEN VERSUS TRYING TO CATCH THEM UP ONCE THEY ENTER KINDERGARTEN.



10. ACCORDING TO MICHIGAN KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS, THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS THAT CAN BE DONE TO IMPROVE THE **SCHOOL READINESS** OF MICHIGAN STUDENTS ARE:

1. **Create a system for children birth to five** that includes parent education, high quality child care and early education opportunities, and social, emotional and physical health supports for every child.
2. **Improve early childhood education** so children are better prepared when they enter kindergarten.
3. **Expand access to high-quality preschool** for at-risk 3-4 year old children.

*The survey was conducted by Lake Research Partners (LPR) from February 25 through March 11, 2009 and April 29 through May 26, 2009, with a total of 675 Michigan kindergarten teachers statewide completing the survey. The margin of error for the survey is +/- 3.8%.

**Or “only a little satisfied”