

From: Michigan K16 Coalition [ken@michigank16.org]

Sent: Friday, June 17, 2005 12:06 AM

Subject: June 21 Rally: Final Update



Get ready to Rally!

June 16, 2005

Thank you for registering to attend the June 21 Rally of the **K-16 Coalition for Michigan's Future!** Michigan students – from kindergarten through college – appreciate your dedication, concern and support for their education and our state's future.

This e-mail contains important details about our Rally. Please review and share with others who may not have pre-registered on-line.

The Rally agenda . . .

**See You At
The Rally!
JUNE 21, 2005**



Rally numbers continue to grow – please be patient as we move from one venue to the other. After all, the more the merrier – especially when it comes to legislative and media impact!

- Noon – 12:30 pm: Arrive at the Lansing Center
- 1:00 pm: Pre-Rally Events at Lansing Center
- 1:40 pm: March to Capitol (2 blocks from Lansing Center)
- 2:00 pm: Capitol Rally

Please arrive at the Lansing Center between noon and 12:30 p.m. Ample parking is reserved, but the nearby lots will fill quickly. Click here to download the latest [K-16 Rally parking map](#). It is also available on our home page at www.michigank16.org.

We have special arrangements for buses and motor coaches. They should arrive at the Michigan Ave. entrance to the Lansing Center. Download the [motor coach instructions](#) to share with your driver/bus coordinator.

Be in the Lansing Center at 1:00 p.m., sharp. You will receive background information, signs, Rally details – and have an opportunity to hear more on the financial future facing Michigan K-16 schools – even as we speak!

Don't forget your homework! Click here for [new letters to legislators](#). Complete one for your senator and representative. Tell them your thoughts regarding cuts in your school district/community college/university. Bring the letters to the Rally where they will be collected and shared with state senators and representatives. The more letters, the more impact . . .

At about 1:40 p.m., we march about two blocks down Michigan Ave. and reconvene on the lawn in front of the Capitol by 2:00 p.m. You will hear from the sponsors of SB 246 and HB 4582, key legislators and speakers with

additional information about the financial state of education in Michigan.

Network with your legislators . . .

There is power in numbers! And on June 21, we will bring a lot of people to Lansing who care passionately about education.

You will want to call your legislators now to make appointments to speak with them on June 21. We have plans to facilitate legislative networking – and give you an opportunity to meet others from your area. At the Capitol there will be signs numbered from 1 - 12 on the Capitol lawn. Each numbered sign represents a meeting point for several counties. This will help you network with other Rallyers from your area and can even be a point where your legislator(s) may gather to speak with you. Click here to download a [legislative networking map](#) to see where your county will gather.

Send your message -- loud and clear . . .

You know what is taking place in your child's classroom and your school. And, you are the best messenger to help legislators understand why we need to change the funding system for K-16 education.

Both **what** you say and **how** you say it is crucial. In simple terms, be clear and respectful. Some key points to stress with your senator and representative:

- Share the story of cuts made in your school, community college or university that are hurting the education students receive.
- Tell your legislators that tax cuts made in the 1990's have crippled public education to the tune of \$2 billion in state revenues forcing cuts in staff, supplies, classes, technology programs and higher education.
- Indicate K-16 education needs adequate funding and that SB 246 and HB 4582 are good solutions.
- Share recent polling data in March that shows a majority of Michigan voters agree that our schools must have adequate annual, guaranteed funding increases to move Michigan's economy toward a high-wage, high-skill, high-tech future.
- The Legislature can pay for SB 246 and HB 4582 by closing some of the billions of dollars in tax breaks given to special interest groups. It's time Michigan students were a "special interest group."
- You hold the Michigan Legislature accountable for fixing what is wrong with school funding; SB 246 and HB 4582 are very good solutions.
- Respectfully ask their positions on the bills and indicate that you will be watching to see what happens with this critical legislation in the future.

[Included here is a "backgrounder"](#) on the plight and reality of Michigan education funding. It's to the point and from the heart.

On behalf of our entire K-16 Coalition which represents more than 400,000 members of the K-16 school family, we look forward to seeing you on June 21. Travel safe . . .

Tom White, Chair
K-16 Coalition for Michigan's Future

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To ensure that e-mails from the Michigan K-16 Coalition continue to be delivered to your inbox, and not be interpreted as "spam," please add ken@michigank16.org to your address book or list of approved e-mail senders.

For further information on The K-16 Coalition for Michigan's Future, or to join, e-mail ken@michigank16.org. Please do not reply to this e-mail newsletter.