



1/7/2025

**Statement in support of Wayne-Westland Teachers  
Michigan Education Justice Coalition**

Michigan Education Justice Coalition stands in solidarity with Wayne-Westland Education Association as they negotiate for a new contract. For months, Wayne-Westland Community School District has been bargaining in bad faith with the union and is unwilling to negotiate a fair and equitable new contract (the previous contract expired in August), all while sitting on a fund balance of over \$42M, the highest in the district's history.

WWCSD staff work with a student population that has diverse and complex needs, but has too little staffing and resources to meet them. This is far too common in school districts across the state, where students deal with the negative academic and mental health effects of a pandemic, cell phones, and school shootings. Moreover, WWCSD is a Title I district with students facing poverty, food insecurity, and homelessness. Giving our teachers the support they need helps our kids, too.

WWEA is one of the strongest teachers' union locals in Michigan, and the district knows this and seeks to weaken them through this contract fight. Members were instrumental in the prevention of mass layoffs and the defeat of a Board proposal to privatize transportation, factors that have strengthened the district's budget. WWEA members show up in numbers to board meetings and actions, including a picket this past Monday evening, where they were joined by parents, former and current students, and members of the UAW, AFT, and other MEA locals.

As a coalition of organizations across Michigan consisting of both local parent and caregiver-driven groups and the largest teachers' unions in Michigan, MEJC stands firmly on the ground that trust and solidarity between parents, caregivers, and school staff is vital to the health of our schools and success of our children. That is why we support Wayne-Westland Education Association as they demand a fair, equitable contract so they can continue providing high-quality public education to all students in Wayne-Westland Community School District.

In solidarity,

**Michigan Education Justice Coalition**