



Statement of Support

MAASE and MAISA acknowledge with sincere appreciation the support for Michigan's infants and toddlers with delays and disabilities and their families as evidenced by the Executive Budget for fiscal year 2019, released by Governor Snyder on February 7, 2018. The proposed \$5 million allocation from the School Aid Budget is an appropriate initial step to adequately fund *Early On*, Michigan's early intervention program, and we applaud the action.

In a spirit of partnership, we express concern, however, regarding the proposed distribution of funds through a competitive bid process. Award of these funds through a competitive bid process would be inefficient administratively and will likely increase the inequities already present in the system. Utilizing the 2013 funding formula which takes into account census data, the Michigan Department of Education currently awards approximately \$10 million in federal funds to intermediate school districts to support implementation of *Early On*. MAASE and MAISA are in support of distributing the \$5 million in state funds, proposed in Governor Snyder's 2019 Executive Budget, with the same mechanism. This will result in a 50% increase in awards to ISDs to support *Early On*.