

# 2017-18 Legislative Priorities: *Education & Workforce Readiness*

**GOAL: Ensure Michigan Job Providers Have Access to the Talent Needed to Compete in a Global Economy**

***Chamber Members Advocate:***

- Supporting parental choice and charter schools to expand and enhance high quality educational opportunities for all Michigan students.
- Assisting students in reaching their full potential by insisting that all schools adhere to a challenging curriculum based on high academic standards.
- Narrowing the skills gap by encouraging parental involvement and holding students, teachers and administrators accountable for student achievement, including postsecondary and workforce readiness.
- Urging the State Board of Education to do a better job holding all public schools, traditional and charter, to high standards for student achievement.
- Increasing competition and lower the cost of school construction by exempting school projects from the State's costly prevailing wage law.
- Supporting the reallocation of resources in K-12 and higher education to better match workplace gaps and needs.

## WHY?

A more effective education system is crucial to ensuring Michigan's economic competitiveness. Every decision impacting public education should be based on what is best for students and how we can best prepare them to compete for jobs in a global economy. The business community must play a more active role in demanding that students emerge from high school prepared for college or be workforce ready. By better integrating the needs of the business community into K-12 education, Michigan can better attract jobs and investment, thereby driving growth and fostering economic freedom.

