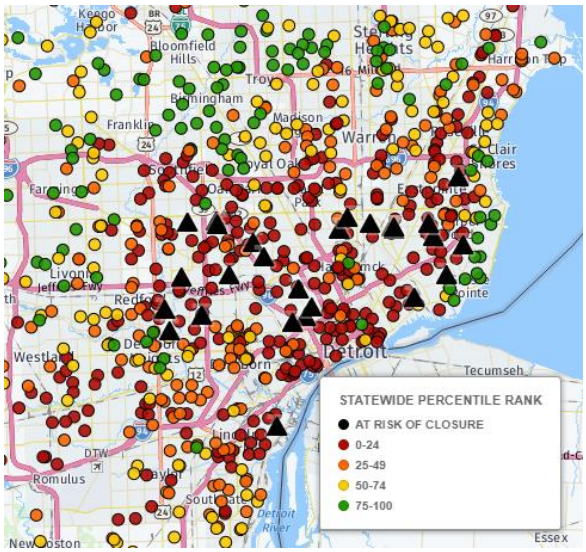
482 Policy Brief: School Closures



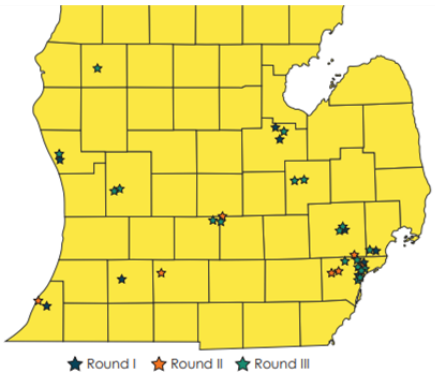
Potentially closing Metro Detroit schools with ranks of nearby schools, 2017 (MLive.com)

June 2016 — The Legislature passes a law (MCL 380.391) requiring the closure of Detroit schools that are in the bottom 5% of all Michigan schools for three years in a row.

May 2017 — As a result of public pressure, the Michigan Department of Education signs "partnership agreements" with 9 districts covering 37 schools that offer an alternative to closures. The agreements have 18- and 36-month improvement goals. The consequences in the agreements if schools don't meet those goals vary from district to district.

Oct. 2017 — 7 new districts sign partnership agreements.

Mar. 2018 — 21 new districts sign partnership agreements.



Partnership Districts as of 2018 (MDE)

June 2018 — The 2018-2019 state budget adds new rules that require districts with partnership agreements to change them to include measurable goals that put students "on track" to proficiency in order to receive their funding. Schools that don't hit these goals MAY close or be reconstituted (could include replacing a quarter of the staff, the principal, and changing the academic program). It is unclear who will make the final decision (but it is likely to be MDE) or how they will define "on track".

482 Forward

For more information, go to www.482Forward.org/482-law-policy-committee.html