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# Judge: Public money for private schools violates Michigan constitution

04/27/2018

*Detroit Free Press*

Submitted by Ariana Fine on 04/27/2018 - 1:33am.

**A** state judge says Michigan's plans to distribute \$5 million in public funding over two years to private schools to cover the cost of mandates violates the state constitution.

Michigan Court of Claims Judge Cynthia Stephens made the ruling in an opinion released Thursday. She ordered the state not to distribute any of the money.

She also denied the state's request earlier to dismiss the lawsuit, which was filed in March 2017 by more than a dozen education-related organizations, including the Michigan Association of School Boards, the Michigan Association of School Administrators and Michigan School Business Officials. The American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan was also a plaintiff in the lawsuit.

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