

Teachers worry as education program faces English-only future



Teachers assistant Zutsnara Rahman uses a puppet with Aliza Ahmed at Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency Mitchell Head Start Center in Hamtramck, Oct. 5. In addition to rolling back Head Start program requirements and standards, the Trump administration is proposing English-only instruction. PHOTOS BY RYAN GARZA/DETROIT FREE PRESS

A Head Start with just one tongue?

Beki San Martin
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

At a play kitchen stove and classroom tables covered with animal figurines, laminated labels identify the names of toys in not only English but Bengali at the Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency Mitchell Head Start Center in Hamtramck. The language is spoken by nearly 90% of the 146 preschoolers enrolled at the center. Toggling between English and the other languages spoken by the kids in the program isn't just a nice-to-have, teachers and staff say. It's necessary to helping bilingual kids feel comfortable so they can excel in the classroom. Which is why they're worried about how an English-only instruction mandate for Head Start, recently proposed by President Donald Trump's administration, could dramatically change the way their program and others across the nation serving dual language kids operate. Children speaking non-English languages at home make up one-third of enrollment nationwide in Head Start, a federal program providing free early education for low-income kids between birth and 5 years old, along with other family services. In Michigan, it's nearly 15 percent or around 4,000 kids. Experts warn the change would leave dual-language learners worse off.

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Ayesha Ahmed plays with a toy while attending a class at the Mitchell Head Start Center in Hamtramck on Oct. 5. Bengali is commonly spoken at the center.

“Head Start is a school-readiness program. The goal is to help children enter kindergarten able to participate fully in English-language classrooms and the broader community.”

Alex Adams
Assistant secretary at the federal Administration for Children and Families

How a Michigan kid landed among the ‘Cornell 7’

Star student, athlete named in lawsuit

Tresa Baldas and Kristen Jordan Shamus
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

With layers of academic regalia draped around his neck, senior class president Scott Kretzschmar stood before his Marine City High School classmates in June 2022 and remarked on all the friendships he made growing up in their tight-knit community. “I can honestly say that I’ve had at least one interaction with all of you that I will remember forever,” the summa cum laude grad said while reading his commencement speech, noting he had been with much of the class since middle school. “Every one of you are my friends. ... I’m excited to see where everyone ends up in the future because I know it will be good.” But then came college, Greek life, partying — and the catastrophic night of Oct. 19, 2024, when a fellow Cornell University student alleges she was gang raped at the Chi Phi fraternity house during a seven-hour drug-fueled sexual assault involving seven men. Among the fraternity brothers she named was Kretzschmar, the Michigan wunderkind and aspiring surgeon who is now enmeshed in a national scandal that has sparked public outrage and reignited the debate over sex-

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Inside

A timeline of the events leading up to the accusations, **14A**



Marine City's Scott Kretzschmar watches a drill during football practice on Aug. 13, 2021. BRANDON FOLSOM/PORT HURON TIMES HERALD

MSU weighs policy changes after doctor's arrest

Kristen Jordan Shamus
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Michigan State University is considering revisions to the chaperone policy at its clinics and medical offices and is “working to improve the method and timeliness of sharing information” so the East Lansing-based university can act more quickly when a physician or other health care provider is accused of sexual assault, said MSU spokesperson Amber McCann. “All university policies are subject to review and evaluation with the goal of continuously refining and strengthening those policies,” said McCann, who

also is MSU's director of issues management. “Additionally, the university is currently engaged in its Institutional Assessment and Responsive Action,” she said. These developments come after MSU medical resident Arpit Saxena was accused of sexually assaulting at least five patients under the guise of treatment between July 1, 2024, and April 7, 2025, at the MSU Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine Clinic in East Lansing. At least one of those patients could have been protected from assault if the university had acted faster to remove Saxena from patient-facing care and if she would have had a chaperone in the

room with her during her treatment, said her attorney, Lawrence P. Nolan. It took four days for MSU to suspend Saxena from treating patients following the first report of sexual assault on April 3, 2025. In that four-day span, McCann said, the university launched a formal “triage and review process,” which she called “an improvement that exists to respond to allegations involving inappropriate provider-patient interactions.” Under the protocol, she said: • Complaints were reviewed by a multidisciplinary team. • Potential risks to patients were assessed “in a timely manner.” • Providers could be removed from

patient care pending investigation. The trouble is, in that stretch of four days in April 2025, when MSU leaders were considering whether to remove Saxena from treating other patients, Nolan said the doctor molested his client, too. She “didn’t have to be a second victim,” Nolan told the Detroit Free Press. “It was a situation that could have been prevented.” Saxena, 40, a native of India who most recently was living with his wife and two small children in Alabama, is charged with three counts of third-degree criminal sexual conduct and one

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