

## **Weekly Legislative Update – March 31, 2017**

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### **Legislative School Aid Budgets Released from Committee**

The House and Senate K-12 Appropriations Subcommittees reported the 2017-2018 School Aid budget bills this week.

Both budgets leave out important items Governor Snyder's Executive Recommendation proposed in February.

Both legislative budgets remove funding for declining enrollment, high school students, and educator evaluations. Both budgets agree with the Governor's recommendation to lower the MPERS Assumed Rate of Return and include funding to offset district and ISD cost increases. Both also do not include reductions in cyber school funding.

### **House School Aid Budget Highlights:**

- \$100 per pupil increase for all districts—No “2X” distribution.
- The plan rolls up the previous year's early reading funding along with a \$500,000 increase for a total of \$25.4 million distributed to eligible districts in an amount equal to \$245 for each 1st grade pupil.
- Includes a \$129 million increase to section 31a, At-Risk funding. The House budget concurs with the Governor's plan to increase eligibility to include more students and to “Hold Harmless” districts. Yet, the distribution formula caps the at-risk per-pupil allocation for newly eligible hold harmless and out-of-formula districts at 50% of their total before any proration. Also, the budget continues the Governor's new strict proposal to use at-risk funds for 4 goals or metrics that will be used to measure a district's success, including chronic absenteeism rates, ELA proficiency in grade 3, Math proficiency in grade 8, and that at least 65% of high school pupils enroll in CTE, advanced placement, international baccalaureate, or dual-enrollment programs, and that at least 80% of those pupils have successfully completed the courses. The House budget requires the state to identify districts that do not meet the goal metrics by FY 2018-19.
- Eliminates \$5 million for the School Reform Office (SRO) to hire CEOs. However, the Dept. of Management and Budget still funds the SRO's data collection and capital assessment programs.
- No change to current shared time distribution.
- Creates a new penalty in an amount equal to the amount spent if a district or ISD uses funds appropriated under this act to pay for an expense relating to any legal action initiated by the district or ISD against the state.
- Maintains the \$2.5 million and adds \$250,000 for non-public FIRST robotics programs.
- Agrees with the Governor's changes to Math and Science Centers (MI-STEM Centers).
- Adds \$1 million for competitive grants to up to 3 intermediate school districts to hire career and technical education counselors and includes \$10 million equipment upgrades.

To view the House budget, click [HERE](#)

To see a district by district estimate, click [HERE](#)

To read a summary of the House budget, click [HERE](#)

### **Senate Budget Highlights**

- The Senate has proposed a 2X increase of \$88–176. Some of this increase is paid for by eliminating \$100 million of the Sec. 147a MPERS offset.

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- The Senate has increased 31a At-Risk funding a by \$100 million. The Senate has concurred with eligibility changes and the Governor’s new strict requirements detailed above. All districts would be eligible for some At-Risk funding. Every At-Risk student would receive at least \$60 per pupil. The budget also includes \$5 million in funding for English learners.
- The Senate has proposed increasing funding for non public schools at \$3m to allow for non-public school participation in FIRST Robotics program.
- CTE equipment grants are funded at \$7.5 million.
- The budget sets aside the MDE partnership and SRO CEO dollars in reserve to be expended after the “School Reform” law is rewritten.
- The Senate cuts \$2 million in shared time funding and also caps the reimbursement at 0.75 FTE.
- The Senate has recommended that a district wishing to seek a waiver on the state’s Labor Day Start requirement must hold a public hearing with the Department of Education.
- ISD operations will see a \$1m increase from the Senate.
- Senate proposes an increase of \$400,000 for bus driver training.

To view the Senate budget, click [HERE](#)

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### **House Committee Hears Testimony on ISD Board Election Plan**

The House Education Committee took up [House Bill 4314](#) for testimony this week. The bill, introduced by Macomb Rep. Pamela Hornberger and co-sponsored by Oakland Rep. Jim Runestad, requires all Intermediate School Districts to be under the supervision and control of a 7-member, popularly elected board.

As introduced, the new elected board would take control beginning January 1, 2018. However, the plan was amended to push the date back to 2019. Under the bill, elections for ISD board members would be held in November 2018. The bill bans members of an ISD’s constituent districts from election or appointment to the ISD board.

### **Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) Bills Pass House**

The House passed all four curriculum bills. The one bill that Oakland Schools opposed, [HB 4317](#) – allowing a swap of MIOSHA training instead of health – passed by the slimmest margin of the bills with 61-47. From Oakland County, Reps. Kathy Crawford, Martin Howrylak, Klint Kesto, and Michael McCready voted no in alignment with Oakland Schools opposition.

The other three that Oakland Schools supported passed by considerable margins.

HBs [4315](#) and [4316](#) (Reps. Griffin and VanderWall, respectively) would collapse the world language and visual and performance arts credits into a new requirement that three credits be earned to meet a new 21st century skills credit which include world language (including American Sign Language, ASL), visual, performing, or applied arts, computer science or computer coding, or a CTE course. The votes for these were 79-29 and 69-39, respectively.

[HB 4318](#) (Rep. Howell) would amend the mathematics requirement to allow a pupil to take algebra II OR statistics. This passed by 91-17 votes.

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As the Senate Education Committee already has formed an MMC subcommittee, these bills may be assigned to that committee. The subcommittee is expected to hold its first hearing after the spring recess.

### **Labor Day/August School Bill Reported by Senate Education**

Senate Education Committee reported SB 271 this week. This is the new Labor Day bill – and allows schools to start school before Labor Day as long as the Friday before Labor Day is still off and school is only held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays in August. The bill is sponsored by Oakland's Senator Knollenberg. It was reported from committee 4-1 with Senator Booher (R-Evart) as the lone no vote.

This is viewed as a compromise for the tourism industry to maintain long weekends for families in Michigan to travel up north each weekend. The tourism industry still came out in force against the bill. Superintendent George Heitsch of Farmington Public Schools testified in support of the bill noting that with competing policy issues, the state must put children first.

Please contact your Senators and ask them to support the legislation.

### **House Education Reports Bill Repealing Hiring Preference Requirement**

House Education Reform reported HB 4166 (Whiteford/Crawford) which would eliminate a required hiring preference for locals and MDE employees for special education positions. A similar bill eliminating preferences for local or ISD employees was passed last session. Oakland Schools supports the bill.

### **Upcoming Legislative Events:**

- April West Superintendent Legislator Breakfast – April 14, 2017, Oakland Schools
- April East Superintendent Legislator Breakfast – April 17, 2017, Royal Oak
- May East Superintendent Legislator Breakfast – May 8, 2017, Royal Oak
- May West Superintendent Legislator Breakfast \_ May 12, 2017, Oakland Schools

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