




Michigan Association of Superintendents & Administrators

MASA Legislative Update

Brought to you by: 

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In This Update

- [Education Committee Round-Up](#)
 - [Appropriations Subcommittee's on Education Round-Up](#)
 - [This Week's Introduced Bills](#)
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Summary

This week, the **Senate Committee on Education approved what is being called “the dyslexia bills”** and, as the **budget season begins in earnest**, the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees convened to focus on presentations on MiLEAP, MDE, and the School Aid Fund.

The eagerly awaited **April 16 special election will restore the House to full operational capacity** upon the seating of the new members and the assumption for a continued 56-54 democratic majority still holds. Anticipation is growing for intensified legislative activity, coinciding with **efforts to finalize the state budget before summer recess**.

As Always, please [contact MASA](#) with any questions or concerns.

Education Committee Round-Up

The Senate Education Committee, chaired by Sen. Polehanki (D), approved legislation to **create a framework and assessment system to identify characteristics of dyslexia in students**. [SB 567](#), introduced by Sen. Irwin (D), and [SB 568](#), introduced by Sen. Polehanki (D), **modifies the responsibilities and training requirements of literacy coaches**.

A substitute to SB 567 was adopted during the hearing to extend the implementation date of the new requirements by two years – beginning the 2027-28 school year. MDE and assessment developers will also have an extended time frame to develop approved assessments – between August 2024 and December 2025.

The Committee unanimously voted to advance both bills to the Senate floor for consideration. We expect the full Senate to consider the bill package in the coming weeks. MASA maintains opposition to the package, having concerns about the legislation's over-prescriptiveness and the potential burden it may place on understaffed school districts.

Additionally, the House Regulatory Reform Committee, chaired by Rep. Carter (D), approved [HB 4603](#), introduced by Rep. Liberati (D). **The legislation would regulate construction, remodeling, and installation of security devices in school buildings**. Currently, a school building or its additions cannot be remodeled or reconstructed without having the plans prepared by a state-licensed architect. The bill would expand that provision to also allow plans and specifications to be prepared by a design-builder that employs a state-licensed architect. The bill passed unanimously out of Committee and is now sent to the House floor for consideration.

Appropriations Subcommittee's on Education Round-Up

This week marked the first public step in budget negotiations across various Appropriations Subcommittees. Both the House Appropriations School Aid and Education Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Weiss (D), and the Senate

Appropriations PK-12 School Aid Subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Camilleri (D), heard **presentations from the State Budget Office regarding the Governor's School Aid Budget recommendations**. Notably, after questioning by House Subcommittee members, the Budget Office conceded that **as of now, the transportation categorical is not slated to be funded as an ongoing item**. In the Senate Subcommittee, legislators questioned **issues with staffing and facility capacity for expanding GSRP**. The Budget Office in response emphasized that MiLEAP will have flexibility to give providers options when they have capacity concerns.

For a School Aid Fund recap, refer to the [Special Legislative Update](#) we provided for a comprehensive breakdown of the many proposals Gov. Whitmer shared.

The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on MDE, chaired by Sen. Bayer (D), heard a presentation from State Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice and Dr. Diane Golzynski regarding the **Executive Budget Recommendations for MDE**. Additionally, the Senate Appropriations Committee, chaired by Sen. Anthony (D), heard from Acting Director Michelle Richard to discuss the **structure and funding of MiLEAP**.

This Week's Introduced Bills

[HB 5456 \(Conlin\)](#) Requires reporting for incidents involving possession or dissemination of sexually explicit or abusive material.

[HB 5501 \(Snyder\)](#) Provides appropriations for the Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential

[HB 5503 \(Weiss\)](#) Provides appropriations for the K-12 School Aid Fund

[HB 5506 \(Weiss\)](#) Provides appropriations for the Department of Education

[HB 5507 \(Weiss\)](#) Provides omnibus appropriations for K-12 School Aid Fund,

Higher Education, and Community College

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