




Michigan Association of Superintendents & Administrators

# MASA Legislative Update

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## Summary

We hope you all stayed safe throughout the ice storm most of Michigan experienced this week, and that you have power! Another busy week at the Capitol was slated until the storm started to move through the area. The House and Senate closed for half the day on Wednesday and cancelled all activities on Thursday. With budget season beginning to ramp up, we expect Lansing to be busy throughout the coming weeks. For now, we have a few updates to share with you.

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

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## Senate Education Committee Votes for School Sinking Fund Flexibility

The Senate Education Committee, chaired by Sen. Polehanki (D-Livonia), heard testimony and eventually voted out [Senate Bill 63](#), **allows for school sinking funds to be used for transportation needs.**

Northville Public Schools Superintendent Dr. RJ Webber testified in support of the bill in Lansing on Tuesday. He expressed to committee members the importance of expanding the use of sinking funds to transportation costs for school districts across the state. He explained how **increasing transportation costs takes funds away from schools' General Fund, which could be used in other critical areas.** The flexibility to use sinking funds for transportation will allow for more funding to be used to positively impact students.

Sen. Polehanki also introduced **a substitute to further expand the legislation to allow for sinking funds to also go toward maintenance of school transportation vehicles.** The bill was voted out of committee on a 6-1 vote and **now moves to the full Senate floor for consideration.**

MASA supported the bill in committee and will keep you up to date as it moves through the legislative process.

The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Prek-12 held its first work session on Tuesday. The subcommittee heard a presentation from the governor on her School Aid budget recommendations, which largely mirrored previous presentations. State Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice also attended the meeting to present the Michigan Department of Education's budget priorities for FY 23-24.

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## **Update on the Statewide School Facilities 11Y Infrastructure Study**

The School Finance Research Foundation Board of Directors has **released more details and next steps regarding the School Aid Section 11Y Infrastructure Study**, [which can be found here](#). This study is a continuation of the School Finance Research Collaborative (SFRC) 2018 Study, with updated numbers in 2021, and the Transportation Study in 2022 (see below for copies

of those reports). More information will continue to be made available as progress continues toward completion of the study and the coalition's final report.

- School Finance Research Collaborative Transportation Study Final Report  
(2022): <https://www.fundmischools.org/SFRCTransportationFinal.pdf>
  - School Finance Research Collaborative Updated Report (2021):  
<https://www.fundmischools.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Michigan-Report-5.21.20-FINAL-.pdf>
  - School Finance Research Collaborative Initial Report (2018):  
<https://www.fundmischools.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/School-Finance-Research-Collaborative-Report.pdf>
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## Payment Released for MI Educator Fellowship and Stipend Scholarships

The first payments of the MI Educator Fellowship and MI Future Educator Stipend scholarships were sent out this week to college students aspiring to become teachers. The scholarship programs were included in the FY 21-22 budget to encourage college students to enter a career in education.

The MI Future Educator Stipend provides **compensation of up to \$10,000 for full-time student teachers for three years** while they complete the final stages of their teacher preparation program.

To be eligible, future educators must [apply through the MiSSG Portal](#) and be participating-full time in required student teaching coursework in Michigan while being unpaid by their local district. They must also submit a FASFA application, be working toward their first teacher certification, have at least 56 semester credits or 84 term credits with a cumulative 3.0 GPA, and have begun the [Education Preparation Program](#) full time in fall 2022 or later.

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## **This Week's Introduced Bills**

[House Bill 4118 \(Friske\)](#) Provides an exemption from state education tax for certain agricultural property

[House Bill 4120 \(Rogers\)](#) Requires distribution of a training package to individuals designated as mandatory reporters for child abuse or child neglect

[House Bill 4125 \(Rheingans\)](#) Requires certain actions regarding pupil who reports being sexually assaulted and prohibits pupil from being expelled for reported incident

[Senate Bill 89 \(Cherry\)](#) Provides for clean drinking water in schools and childcare centers

[Senate Bill 92 \(Anthony\)](#) Provides supplemental appropriations in the school aid act for fiscal year 2022-2023