



Michigan Association of Superintendents and Administrators

## Government Relations Alert



### Senate Subcommittee Releases Budget

Today the Senate K12 Appropriations Subcommittee released their version of the 2019-20 budget. As expected, it's quite a bit smaller in total, compared to Gov. Whitmer's recommendation. The main difference is between the foundation allowance recommendations. The governor has proposed a smaller base foundation increase of between \$120 and \$180 per pupil (1.5x) with much larger premiums for economically disadvantaged students, special education students, and CTE students. The Senate did not include the weighted foundation allowances and instead, put more money in the base foundation using the 2X formula. Under the Senate plan, districts would receive between \$135 and \$270 per pupil.

Other noticeable differences between the two include the cyber foundation allowance, special education, at-risk and high school funding. The governor

proposed a 20 percent reduction in cyber school foundation allowances, the Senate restores that cut. The governor recommended an increase in reimbursement by 4 percent for special education costs. The Senate did not make that recommendation and instead included a one-time boost of \$30 million for special education capital expenditures. Under the governor's proposal, at-risk funding would see a \$102 million increase to provide for a weighted foundation allowance for at-risk pupils. The Senate instead increased funding by \$3 million and included \$35 million for capital expenditures related to at-risk students. The high school premium first proposed by Gov. Snyder was retained in the proposal from Gov. Whitmer, but the Senate has removed that item.

Intermediate School District funding in Sec. 81 was increased by 1 percent in the Senate budget, compared to the governor's proposal of 3.5 percent. As far as literacy coaches are concerned, the governor proposed tripling the number of literacy coaches funded by the state and eliminating a local match requirement. The Senate has also proposed a tripling of the number of coaches but has retained the local match requirement.

Several other line items that the governor eliminated have been resurrected in the Senate proposal including: Imagine learning; CTE equipment upgrades; strict discipline academies; online algebra tool; financial data tools; culinary instruction grant; year-round schools; summer reading; DAPCEP; Teach for America; non-public school funding; conductive learning; Pipeline-2-Promise; Dana Center; 10 cents per meal; MI Bright Future; Panic Button App.

The overall budget is \$131 million below the governor's recommendation and maintains the contribution of SAF dollars for University funding. While we look more deeply at the budget, it's important to note that this is just another step in the process. MASA has come out strongly in favor of the governor's recommendation because it begins to implement the findings of the SFRC and we encourage lawmakers on both sides of the aisle to support Gov. Whitmer's school funding plan, which embraces funding equity, defines real solutions for protecting the School Aid Fund and reflects the removal of higher education from the fund.

Please visit [www.gomasa.org/budget](http://www.gomasa.org/budget) for more details and district-by-district comparisons.

Thank you,

Peter Spadafore  
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Advocacy and Communications