




Michigan Association of Superintendents & Administrators

# MASA Legislative Update

Brought to you by: 

---

Mar. 1, 2024

## Summary

Action in Lansing this week included the **House passing the first education policy bill of the year** and the House Committee on Education hearing testimony on the Educational Instruction Act. **Clinton County Superintendents also made their way to the Capitol** to meet with key policymakers and advocate for education-related budget priorities. A more in-depth look at this week's events is detailed in the summary below.

---

## House Education Committee

The Educational Instruction Act, enacted in 2017, could be on its way to being repealed under [House Bill 5025](#), introduced by Rep. Arbit (D). Under the law, **local governments are currently prohibited from restricting other entities from using vacant public school buildings for educational purposes.**

The House Committee on Education, chaired by Rep. Koleszar (D), heard testimony from several stakeholders on Tuesday while Committee members debated the merits of repealing the policy. Supporters of the bill touted local control in their testimony and preservation of historic school buildings.

Opponents of the introduced legislation suggested the current law prohibits school districts from denying children educational options through deed restrictions and that it should stay in place.

**MASA supports the bill to repeal** the Educational Instruction Act, and we will keep you updated as it progresses through the legislative process.

---

## Key Legislation Considered in the House

[House Bill 4279](#), introduced by Rep. VanderWall (R), would **modify the requirements of taxes levied to allow one ISD to contract with another for CTE program operations**. The bill was approved by the House on a vote of 100-6 and has been referred to the Senate Committee on Education to await a hearing.

[Senate Bill 518](#), introduced by Sen. Camilleri (D), would **extend the sunset on the interim special education teaching certification to July 2027**. The bill was originally on the House agenda but was not presented for a floor vote. The Senate unanimously supported the bill in the fall. We'll have to wait to see if there's further movement in the coming weeks given the current state of uncertainty in the House.

---

## Capitol Advocacy

Clinton County Superintendents spent part of Tuesday in Lansing **advocating for budget priorities and discussing policy concerns**. Members of Clinton RESA connected with the Chairs of the House and Senate Committees on Education, Sen. Polehanki (D) and Rep. Koleszar (D), respectively.

Sen. Singh (D), who represents Clinton County, met the group for a working lunch to **discuss concerns around transportation funding, school safety, and mental health resources**. Superintendents also **expressed frustration**

**with the increased number of competitive grants** being used to disseminate necessary School Aid funding and the burden it causes for school districts.

---

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

[HB 5527 \(Fitzgerald\)](#) Modifies cardiac emergency response plans

[HB 5528 \(T. Carter\)](#) Provides for CPR and AED certification requirements for athletic coaches

[HB 5530 \(Thompson\)](#) Requires annual inspections of all public and nonpublic schools for health and safety violations

[HB 5531 \(Thompson\)](#) Creates registry of student death on school property

[SB 736 \(Victory\)](#) Requires instruction in water safety

**[View All Bills & Positions](#)**