
May 27, 2022

In This Update

- Summary
 - [Governor Announces Tutoring Plan Proposal](#)
 - [Gas Tax Holiday](#)
 - [Legislature Passes Oxford Supplemental](#)
 - [Call to Action: Tell Your Legislator to Oppose Student Opportunity Scholarships](#)
 - [This Week's Introduced Bills](#)
-

Summary

We are devastated by the news of the shooting at Robb Elementary School in Texas on Tuesday. We share in the heartbreak we are all feeling for the families who have lost a loved one due to this senseless act of violence. Violence of any kind has no place in our schools. We extend our deepest

condolences to the students, staff, families, and all of the Uvalde community during this extremely difficult time.

The [information here](#) comes directly from our Texas affiliate and is **the best way to offer support to the Uvalde community.**

For resources to assist your own school community, **check out [MASA's SEL and Mental Health Resources](#) page.** We update this regularly as resources become available.

Governor Announces Tutoring Plan Proposal

On Monday, Gov. Whitmer announced a new proposal for Michigan students, “MI Kids Back on Track”. The plan invests **\$280 million** of the state’s surplus revenue to **assist students in “getting back on track” for their future academic success.** Funding would be used for **tutoring and other personalized instruction** before, after, or during school.

You can find out more information [here](#).

Gas Tax Holiday

Yesterday, the Senate passed legislation that would **suspend the state’s tax on gas and the sales tax on gas.** SB 972-974 and SB 1029 would temporarily suspend both taxes on motor fuels **from June 15, 2022, through September 15, 2022.**

You may remember that in March the legislature passed legislation to cancel the gas tax from April 1 to September 30. The governor ultimately vetoed the legislation, as it came with a \$750 million-dollar price tag for the current 2022 fiscal year, potentially impacting ongoing road projects.

This week’s iteration of the gas tax holiday would reduce revenue to the state by approximately \$763.5 million to \$803.6 million in this fiscal

year. **Combined this newest round of bills would reduce School Aid Fund revenue by approximately \$266.3 million to 280.5 million.**

While the legislation only calls for a temporary suspension, this legislation still represents a significant hit to the School Aid Fund and is an unfortunate development as all sides continue to discuss tax cuts instead of reinvesting revenue.

Legislature Passes Oxford Supplemental

On Thursday, the legislature quickly acted on a new school safety supplemental spending bill to the Governor. The legislation appropriates a total of **\$37.3 million dollars** and focuses on three main areas:

Sec. 11w: Oxford Response (\$9.8 million SAF)

- Funding is to **account for the at least 20 consecutive days they were forced to close**. These dollars are for personnel and additional student supports, including psychologists, family liaisons, mental health staff, school security, additional learning time, legal fees, and the physical restoration of a school building.

Sec. 97c: Risk Assessments (\$15 million GF)

- Funding will be distributed to districts, ISDs, and nonpublic schools in a **maximum of \$2,000 per school grants to implement risk assessments**.

Sec. 97d: Critical Incident Mapping (\$12.5 million GF)

- Funding will be distributed to districts, ISDs, and nonpublic schools in a maximum of **\$2,000 per school grants to implement critical incident mapping** of each school.

We anticipate the **Joint School Safety Taskforce report** to be released soon, based on media reports. There is rumored to be policy recommendations focused on school safety procedures and mental health services.

Additionally, the financial literacy legislation, HB 5190, passed through the Senate this week. This legislation would amend the Michigan Merit curriculum to require **every student to complete a .5 credit of personal finance with a**

financial literacy component to be awarded a high school diploma. The most recent version of the bill allows the .5 credit of personal finance to fulfill a .5 required credit of math, foreign language, visual arts, performing arts, or applied arts. The passed version of the bill explicitly states that the .5 credit in economics cannot be fulfilled by completion of the .5 credit course in personal finance. The requirement could be fulfilled through an MDE-approved formal career and technical education program or curriculum that aligned with the subject area expectations.

The bill passed the Senate on a 35Y-2N vote and now must be concurred by the House before it is sent to the governor for her signature.

Call to Action: Tell Your Legislator to Oppose Student Opportunity Scholarships

As you know, late last year the governor **vetoed SB 687-8 and HB 5404-5, legislation that would create an unconstitutional voucher program** in our state. Following that action, **Let MI Kids Learn initiated two ballot proposals to counteract the veto.** One would establish the Student Opportunity Act and the Student Opportunity Scholarship program. The second would allow taxpayers to claim tax credits for contributions for education expenses under the scholarship program. Once there is a sufficient number of signatures collected, the matter will go back to the Legislature.

These programs would divert hundreds of millions in tax revenue away from public schools. The amount taken away would increase by 20% every year for five years, meaning up to \$1 billion could be taken away annually.

We are asking that you please [contact your House and Senate members to urge them to vote no on the legislation.](#)

You can also [visit our website](#) to learn more about how we can all work together to counteract these efforts.

This Week's Introduced Bills

[HB 6149 \(Brabec\)](#) / [SB 1063 \(Irwin\)](#) Would require the department to **develop educational materials and training programs regarding sudden cardiac arrest in athletes** and their return to athletic activity. The legislation would require receipt of materials in certain instances.

[HB 6151 \(Carra\)](#) Would **allow a school employee to carry a concealed pistol and tasers in schools and on school property**. There is a requirement for these weapons to be in a securely locked container. The bill would require districts to allow at least three school employees to carry these.

[HB 6152 \(Bezotte\)](#) Makes changes in the Michigan penal code to **allow for pistols and tasers to be permitted in school and on school property**.