

LegislativeUpdate

Michigan Association of Superintendents & Administrators | April 12, 2019



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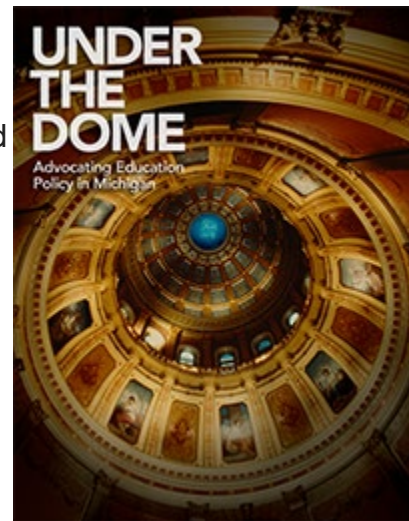
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Summary

This week in Lansing the legislature resumed session after a two-week break. The House and Senate K-12 Appropriations committees both met and heard informational presentations from education stakeholders including MASA. You can read more about these meetings below.

Our Under the Dome Event is quickly approaching. Join us in Lansing for an advocacy day for a briefing on current state legislation and lunch with your elected officials. You can register on the [MASA Website](#).

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



Governor Whitmer Signs Executive Order

Yesterday, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed [Executive Order 2019-09](#) to create the Educator Advisory Council. The order stated that this will be a fifteen-member council including individuals representing various roles in our public education system, the council will consist of a number of school personnel such as teachers, administrators and counselors. The council will be tasked with advising the governor and recommending policy changes. The governor's executive order states that nothing in the order shall diminish the authority of the State Board of Education.

If you are interested in an appointment on this council, information is available on the [governor's website](#). The deadline for applications is April 19.

House Education Committee Talks Labor Day

The House Education Committee heard testimony on HB 4368 sponsored by Rep. Pamela Hornberger (R-Chesterfield) and HB 4369 sponsored by Rep. Steve Johnson (R-Wayland).

HB 4369 would repeal the prohibition on beginning school before Labor Day. MASA testified with MASB in support of repealing the restriction on Labor Day. During the committee, a substitute was adopted that also included a repeal of the common calendar for ISDs. MASA has expressed a desire to keep these issues separate and legislators appear to be amenable to that line of thinking.

HB 4368 would repeal the requirement that a district or ISD requesting a waiver to use a portion of its funding under the State School Aid Action to conduct a joint public hearing with MDE. Currently, that hearing must be held before a waiver can be granted. This bill will not be necessary if HB 4369 is enacted into law.

As expected, the tourism industry testified in opposition to the bill. The committee did not take action on the bill.

Ways and Means Debates Snow Day Fix

On Wednesday, the House Ways and Means Committee reported out HB 4206, legislation to address snow days. The bill is sponsored by Rep. Ben Frederick (R-Owosso) and was heard in the House Education Committee last month. The bill would allow for snow days that were called during the time when the governor

declared a state of emergency to be forgiven. The bill was amended by the House Education Committee to revise the percentage requirement for rescheduled days of instruction due to snow days from 70 percent to 60 percent.

During Wednesday's Ways and Means committee hearing the bill was reported out as an H-3 Substitute. The most current version of the bill now includes language that if a district has more than 14 snow days, they may add 30-minute increments to scheduled days to complete the 1098 hours requirement. This is for the current school year only.

Additionally, the Ways and Means committee had a discussion on compensation for hourly workers that were affected by snow day closures. Rep. Rebekah Warren (D-Ann Arbor) proposed an amendment to ensure the estimated 40,000 hourly workers in school districts across the state were paid for those days. Several members on the committee commented that this situation is not universal for all school districts because it depends on employee contracts. The amendment failed in a 4-7 party-line vote. The Chairman of the Committee, Rep. Brandt Iden (R-Oshtemo Twp.), stated that due to the timelessness of this issue it was necessary for the committee to act on the bill that day. HB 4206 is now before the full House. There is still a possibility that the hourly worker discussion will continue on the floor, but it's not certain at this time.

House and Senate K-12 Appropriations Committee Summary

Both the House and Senate K-12 Appropriations committees met this week and heard similar presentations from various education organizations. Several of the organizations that testified were advocating for funding in the FY19-20 budget. As you know, Gov. Whitmer's budget proposal did not include a number of line items

that were in last year's budget. The committee heard informational testimony on many of these programs from various vendors.

Additionally, in the House hearing several education groups presented before the committee. MASA's Associate Executive Director of Advocacy and Communications, Peter Spadafore, testified before the House committee on our association's legislative priorities and discussed the School Finance Research Collaborative.

Chairman Miller stated at the conclusion of his committee meeting that next week any organization that has something that is proposed in the budget or would like to be proposed can testify before his committee.

MDE Memo on At-Risk Funding

Below you will see a number of memos from the Michigan Department of Education. The one that will probably draw the most attention is #052-19 which deals with at-risk funding. The memo states that a number of districts have failed to meet certain benchmarks related to at-risk funding in the School Aid Budget and could face certain penalties related to redirected resources.

Recall that this was a big issue last year and required a supplemental budget to delay the implementation of these penalties. As of now, the redirection is not entirely clear because all the data is not final and it only affects the 2019-20 budget, not this year's funding. We will continue to monitor this situation and work with lawmakers on this language in the budget.

ICYMI: MDE Updates

MEMO #052-19

Section 31a At-risk Accountability and Identification

In the 2016-2017 school year, the Michigan legislature passed changes to Section 31a that resulted in added accountability measures. These changes are scheduled to take effect in the coming year, 2019-20. This memo is to clarify requirements related to this law.

[Read the full Memo #052-19.](#)

MEMO #050-19

2019 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Public Reporting of Data

The federal regulations implementing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) at §300.602(b)(1)(i)(A) require public reporting on the performance of each local education agency on the targets established in the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) for each of the priority areas (Part B: Ages 3 through 21) in Michigan. Please review your district's data in advance of the release of the SPP/APR in order to answer questions that may arise when released to the public.

[Read the full Memo #050-19.](#)

MEMO #055-19

Announcing the 2019-20 Read by Grade Three Law Assessments

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is required under the Read by Grade Three Law to identify assessments that districts will use to assist with having all students reading at grade level by the end of third grade. The MDE approved assessment lists also help districts and schools in creating a comprehensive screening and assessment system which is an essential component of districts and schools in having a complete program for early literacy to support efforts in raising literacy proficiency and is in alignment with Goal 2 of the Top 10 in 10 Years State Strategic Plan.

[Read the full Memo #055-19.](#)

AASA Requests Input

With the federal education funding process fully underway—AASA created a survey critical to helping understand the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Title IV program and their ability to help Congress understand what the dollars mean to our schools, how we are using them and the role they play in supporting well-rounded education, student support services and educational technology.

This is an important year for the Student Support Academic Enrichment (SSAE) Grant Program under ESSA Title IV. This is the year they will finalize the appropriations for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 dollars that will be in your schools for the 2020-21 school year.

The account is still new and there isn't a clear understanding of how school leaders are using the funds to support safe and healthy schools, a well-rounded curriculum and the effective use of technology. This national survey builds upon the 2018 survey to tell a story about the use of those funds over time. Congress – and the

public – rely on these stories to understand the benefit to students and to justify continued support for Title IV-A.

Please consider taking [AASA's survey](#)