

LegislativeUpdate

Michigan Association of Superintendents & Administrators | February 21, 2020



In This Issue:

- Summary
- [Legislature Begins Budget Hearings](#)
- [ICYMI: MDE Updates](#)

Summary

This week in Lansing was light on policy and heavy on the budget. An issue we'd like to flag for members is one we mentioned last week. SB 171 eliminates dates during which high school pupils may fulfill a foreign language requirement for a diploma by completing a formal career and technical education (CTE) program or by completing visual or performing arts instruction. That exception expires this year. As your students are in the middle of scheduling for next year, it's important to highlight that this bill is scheduled for a Tuesday hearing. There are a few more steps before this is a law, and you should operate under the assumption that the bill won't pass, but we thought it important to keep you updated on this progress. We are working to get it across the finish line quickly, but spring break is looming, and that presents timing challenges. As always, please [contact MASA](#) with any questions or concerns.

Legislature Begins Budget Hearings

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on School Aid and Department of Education met on Wednesday. Beth Bullion from the Office of the State Budget gave an overview of the Executive Budget Recommendation.

The committee had some general questions for SBO on how sections were generally decided on, including the school meal debt reimbursement item, literacy coaches, and MPSERS. The remainder of the committee meeting was reserved for presentation on School Mental Health Services from stakeholder groups. The committee heard from the School Community Health Alliance of Michigan, Community School Models in West Michigan, the Michigan School Counselors Association, Michigan Association of School Social Workers, and Michigan Association of School Psychologists. The comments centered on how stakeholders are spending 31N dollars to serve students best. We heard from community providers an ask for increased flexibility in the language so that there are more options to use 31N funding and from school-based professionals, a need for additional school-specific training for outside groups.

Chairman Rep. Aaron Miller (R-Sturgis) has said that he intends to schedule informational hearings on specific budget-related topics in the coming weeks and allow for stakeholder groups to come and present. If there are issues members would like to present, MASA is happy to try and schedule those presentations.

On the Senate side, their Subcommittee on K-12 heard a presentation from the Michigan Department of Treasury (MDOT) on Community Engagement Advisory Committees (CEAC). The Deputy State Director of MDOT, Joyce Parker, gave the presentation.

Deputy Director Parker testified that the concept for the CEAC developed through discussions between the state and Benton Harbor. MDE, MDOT, and the Benton Harbor school board entered into a memorandum of understanding to create the advisory committee in August of last year.

Gov. Whitmer included language formalizing the CEAC structure in her budget recommendation, and committee members had questions about this strategy. Deputy Director Parker and other treasury representatives clarified that this would not be mandatory for a future district that may be in this position in the future. Rather, this language is to formalize a model to use as a tool – it may not be a fit for every school district or community.

Hearings like this will continue for the next several weeks while the House and Senate work on their respective budgets.

ICYMI: MDE Updates

MEMO #033-20

Clarification Regarding Funding for Special Education Secretarial/Clerical Staff and Paraprofessionals with a Split-Assignment

Beginning with the 2019-20 school year, the Michigan Department of Education's Office of Special Education (OSE) will allow reimbursement of split-funded secretarial/clerical staff who are not utilized full time in special education. [Read the full memo.](#)

MEMO #034-20

Fall 2020 Michigan Kindergarten Entry Observation (MKEO)/Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) Statewide Sampling Method

Sections 32d(3) and 104(4) of Public Act 58 of 2019, commonly known as the State School Aid Act, have new provisions regarding the MKEO/KRA that affect all school districts beginning with the start of the 2020-21 school year. This memo is intended to provide clarifications regarding the provisions for planning and implementation purposes. The clarifications were reviewed by representatives from the Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators Early Childhood Administrators Network, Johns Hopkins University, and Michigan State University. [Read the full memo.](#)