

# LegislativeUpdate

Michigan Association of Superintendents & Administrators | February 22, 2019



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### Summary

The Legislature has started to meet with regularity and committees have begun hearing testimony on bills. A few issues MASA is following were up in committees this week, those are detailed below. The issue of snow days has yet to be discussed in committees. Many bills have been introduced on the topic, and we are in the process of working with lawmakers and MDE to craft the best solution to

deal with this year's extreme weather circumstances.

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

### House Discusses Fire Alarm Requirements

The House Regulatory Reform committee heard testimony this week on a pair of bills that aim to revise school fire alarm requirements. HB 4066 and 4067, both sponsored by Rep. Julie Calley (R-Portland) would remove the current requirement that a school with a secure vestibule install a fire alarm within that vestibule, so long as an alarm is located within five feet of the door on the secure side.

In buildings that include a vestibule, often the first set of doors is unlocked but the second set is secured, and the visitor must request access. The purpose is to allow school officials to control visitor entry to school. However, in a situation where an individual is not permitted admittance to the school, they can simply pull the fire alarm within the vestibule and bring children their way. HB 4066 and HB 4067 are in the best interest of student safety and would make the necessary changes to prohibit that scenario from occurring. MASA is supportive of the legislation.

The legislation would amend the Construction Code so that this language would be consistent and would take effect 90 days after being enacted. The bills did not get voted on, but we will continue to provide updates as necessary.

### House Education Committee Debates Elimination of ACT WorkKeys

On Tuesday the House Education committee held their first hearing on a bill, HB 4162. The bill is sponsored by Rep. John Reilly (R-Oakland Twp.) and would

remove the requirement that the Michigan Merit Exam (MME) include an assessment that can be used in evaluating the student's workforce readiness.

As you know, the MME must be administered to students in the 11th grade and must include at least one test that assesses a student's math and reading skills in a manner that can be evaluated by a potential employer. This exam must be a nationally recognized evaluation of workforce readiness and Michigan currently uses the ACT WorkKeys Assessment to fulfill that requirement. HB 4162 would eliminate the requirement but not prohibit school districts from administering a workforce readiness assessment if they chose to do so.

The bill sponsor testified that legislation would free up a half day of instruction that is currently a loss for all students, both non-testing and 11th graders. Additionally, eliminating this requirement would free up \$4.4 million of state dollars currently spent on the exam. Michigan completed a three-year contract with ACT in 2018 and the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) renewed the contract for one year. The Department clarified during committee that the state would not see any penalties or fees by not renewing the contract.

The Michigan Manufacturers Association and the Grand Rapids Chamber testified in opposition of the bill, stating that the WorkKeys test is an integral hiring tool and foundational credential for employers. Discussion from committee members included questions about where test results are being used, and if any data existed on if this tool is utilized statewide.

MASA is supportive of this legislation and urges its passage. The Education Committee has already posted for next week, and we anticipate that this bill will pass out of committee at that time.

**Student Population Decline to Continue**

The State of Michigan's demographer Eric Guthrie presented before the House School Aid and Education Appropriations Subcommittee on Wednesday and projected a significant decrease in the number of school-age children in Michigan. He stated that Michigan's K-12 school-age population will decrease by more than 100,000 by 2024. Further, that will would not see population similar to our current level of 1.54 million until 2040, when millennials begin to have children. This is attributed to an anticipated natural decline in population, individuals are moving out of state and are having fewer children. This continues a trend districts have seen over the last decade or so.