

LegislativeUpdate

Michigan Association of Superintendents & Administrators | January 17, 2020



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Summary

The Legislature is now resuming normal business after the holidays, and excitement is building in Lansing as we prepare for the next State of the State address. We are looking forward to seeing members next week in Detroit for the Midwinter conference (if you haven't [registered](#), make sure to do so ASAP).

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

House Education Committee

On Tuesday, the House Education Committee held its first meeting of the year. They met briefly to take testimony and vote on two Senate bills dealing with dropout recovery programs. SB 650 and SB 651 make some technical changes in both the School Aid Act and the School Code.

SB 650, sponsored by Sen. Lana Theis (R-Brighton), amends the School Aid Act to remove the sunset on the bill so that a district may continue to employ or contract their teachers of record through an education management organization (EMO). SB 650 would also require that a dropout recovery program provide both a teacher of record and an advocate. The teacher of record is defined in the bill as a teacher that holds a valid teaching certificate and is endorsed in that grade and area of the course. If a district has a partnership with an EMO, they are permitted to employ or contract a teacher of record. An advocate is an adult that is available to meet in person with assigned pupils to conduct social interventions, proctor fila exams, and provide academic and social support to pupils enrolled in a dropout recovery program.

SB 651, sponsored by Sen. Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield), amends the School Code to reflect the language in the School Aid Act regarding dropout recovery programs. SB 651 also adds reporting requirements for EMOs. If a school district or public-school academy partners with an EMO for a dropout recovery program, the district or PSA would have to ensure that the EMO provides several items to them on a quarterly basis. For every eligible enrolled student, an EMO would need to provide; the name of the student, basis for eligibility for the program, the number of credits needed to earn a diploma, and the anticipated completion date. The basis of eligibility includes the expulsion provision under the Revised School Code, a local policy, a referral by a court, pregnancy or parenthood, previous dropout, or risk of dropout. The EMO must also report to the district on the names of all former eligible students that earned a diploma, those students that did not earn a diploma and the names of all teachers of record and advocates.

SB 651 also includes required data that the EMO must provide to the Michigan Department of Education (MDE). This information includes the number of eligible students enrolled, the average number of months enrolled, the number of students that earned a diploma during the previous year, and other important data specified in the bill.

Senator Moss testified that the reporting requirements that the legislation would now include for EMOs would allow for MDE and districts to assess the success and impact of the program. Both bills were reported unanimously to the House Ways and Means Committee. The chair indicated that the committee took testimony and voted in the same meeting due to the quickly approaching sunset date currently in place for these programs. MASA is supportive of the legislation.

Dates to Remember

January 29 – At 7 p.m. on Wednesday, January 29, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer will deliver her second State of the State address of her first term. We expect roads to be a central theme, but we also anticipate that the governor will take this opportunity to talk about other priorities, such as some of her goals for education. MASA will be there in full force to live-tweet the speech, and we will send an update out after the address.

February 6 – Gov. Whitmer will present to the Legislature her second budget. Like the State of the State speech before it, a safe bet would be that the budget address will include roads as a central theme. We also believe Gov. Whitmer will lean in on the weighted foundation allowance for K12 schools and push lawmakers to adopt some of the core principles of the School Finance Research Collaborative recommendations.

ICYMI: MDE Updates

Memo #008-20

New District-Provided Professional Development Reporting Requirements

To reduce reporting of inaccurate information and to streamline the educator certificate renewal process, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is implementing a shift in the process for reporting District-Provided Professional Development (DPPD) for educator recertification. [Read the memo.](#)

Memo #010-20

Request for Feedback and Comments on Draft ESSA Requirements

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is writing to provide important information regarding Michigan's approved ESEA consolidated State plan under the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). [Read the memo.](#)

Memo #011-20

Revised Model 24/7 Tobacco-Free Schools Policy

On December 10, 2019, the State Board of Education approved a revised Model 24/7 Tobacco-Free Schools Policy. This policy has been updated to expand the types of tobacco and nicotine products covered, including vapor products and electronic smoking devices. [Read the memo.](#)

Memo #012-20

2019-20 Pupil Membership Auditing Manual Update

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has released the updated Pupil Membership Auditing Manual (PMAM) for the 2019-20 school year. Please know the delayed passage of the State School Aid Act postponed the development and review process for completing the PMAM. The new manual is available on the MDE Audit Services website at MDE Audits website, or may be accessed directly through the following link: PMAM. [Read the memo.](#)

Memo #013-20

Model Anti-Bullying Policy

Section 380.1310b of The Revised School Code requires the board of a school district or intermediate school district, or board of directors of a public-school academy, adopt and implement a policy prohibiting bullying at school. The Matt Epling Safe School Law was signed on January 10, 2015 and went into effect on March 31, 2015. Under this law, districts are required to have anti-bullying policies

that include cyberbullying as a form of bullying and identify procedures for notification to parents, as well as procedures for reporting, investigating, and documenting incidents. The full list of required policy components can be found at: <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-380-1310b>. [Read the memo](#).

