



Michigan Association of Superintendents & Administrators

# MASA Legislative Update

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## Summary

This week the governor delivered her third state of the state address and the legislature began committee meetings. We covered the governor's address and sent a membership update on Wednesday night, and you can catch those details below.

The MASA membership, the Government Relations and Policy Committee, and the MASA Council have put together our [Legislative Priorities for the 101st Legislative Session](#). Recall, these are the issues on which the Association will work proactively with lawmakers for 2021 and 2022. Thank you all for your time in responding to surveys and communicating with your region representatives to make these priorities comprehensive and inclusive.

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

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## **Senate Passes Contact Sports Resolution**

Yesterday, both the House Oversight and the Senate Education committees met to discuss restrictions on organized contact sports. The House Oversight Committee members heard testimony from interested parties, including many current high school students, athletic coaches, and parents.

In the Senate, the committee heard testimony on SR 7, which was introduced this week by Sen. Dale Zorn (R-Ida) and urges the governor and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to end the suspension of high school sports. The resolution was adopted by the committee with a substituted version that added youth sports. The resolution was later taken up by the full Senate during session and passed by voice vote. Those present in the chamber reported they did not hear any audible nays.

As a point of clarification, a resolution is a document that expresses the will of the body. They are traditionally used to urge action by state agencies or

Congress, conduct legislative business, among other ceremonial purposes and do not have the full weight of law.

Additionally, for the purposes of providing information on this topic, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [released a new report this week](#) on an outbreak related to a high school wrestling tournament.

MASA will continue to monitor this issue as we are well aware that this is a top concern for the school community. We are meeting with health officials and representatives of the governor's office to better understand the science and to articulate membership concerns.

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## **SOS Recap (Re-Sent from Wednesday)**

Governor Whitmer's main message was clear and centered on a call to the legislature to pass the \$5.5 billion [MI COVID Recovery Plan](#) she released last week. Citing the state's immediate need for funding to distribute vaccines, safely gather students for in-person instruction, and small business support, Whitmer called on the legislature to reach across the aisle and partner with her to "Fix the Damn Road Ahead."

The governor focused on five major topics in tonight's address, including education.

Whitmer highlighted her partnership with legislative leaders to reach a bipartisan budget agreement last session that moved the state closer to a weighted funding formula and provided more support to students who need it

the most – all without cutting funding. Coining a new term, she mentioned the [“MI Classroom Heroes Grant”](#) which was included in that agreement. Recall this program provides up to \$500 payments to some education personnel. Today it was announced that those payments will go out next month. Please note, this is not a new program. This is the COVID-19 educator grant initiative that was already signed into law and administered through the Department of Treasury.

Teasing out her budget proposal, the governor announced that she will continue to work toward a weighted funding formula. Gov. Whitmer’s spending plan, which will be unveiled on February 11, will include dollars earmarked for academic recovery, physical and mental health, and post-secondary transition.

Additionally, Wednesday’s address announced that the Return to School Advisory Council will reconvene to help develop recommendations for schools and policymakers on the best ways to promote comprehensive recovery for students.

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## **House Republicans Release COVID Response Plan**

Also, on Wednesday, the House GOP released a [one-page](#) summary of their version of a COVID relief spending plan. MASA [released a statement](#) on this proposal and expressed our frustration with the intent to use federal relief dollars that a bipartisan Congress earmarked for Michigan schools as a bargaining chip. Specifically, the House GOP’s supplemental spending plan is attached with the stipulation that the \$2.1 billion education plan – including \$1.6

billion in Title 1a dollars – is contingent upon approval of a law moving power to close in-person learning and sports activities away from the governor's administration to local health departments.

Dollars-wise, the details of the “[Help and Hope for Struggling Michiganders](#)” differs from what the governor proposed. While we have not seen the exact language of this proposal, a high-level summary released noted a few key areas of proposed funding. Briefly, the plan includes \$135 million for a voluntary, in-person summer semester for K-8 students, \$15 million to launch before and after school programs, and additional dollars to offset summer school expenses like transportation. Discussions this morning included a mention of a \$250 per pupil grant for districts committing to in-person instruction by February 15.

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## **This Week's Introduced Bills**

[HB 4032 \(Rep. Kahle\)](#) Reduces the student growth component of teacher and administrator evaluations from 40% to 25%.

[HB 4037 \(Rep. Hornberger\)](#) Removes the requirement that districts must administer an assessment to assess a pupil's ability to apply at least reading and math skills in a manner that is intended to allow employers to use the results in making employment decisions as a condition of state aid but stipulates that a board of district may provide pupils with an opportunity to take an assessment. This legislation is referring to the WorkKeys assessment.

[HB 4038 \(Rep. Reilly\)](#) Removes the requirement that MDE administers an assessment to assess a pupil's ability to apply at least reading and math skills in a manner that is intended to allow employers to use the results in making employment decisions. A school district may offer the assessment, and the legislature shall appropriate funds to reimburse districts that offer the assessment. MDE is required to report to the legislature how many districts offered the test and how many pupils took the test annually. This legislation is referring to the WorkKeys assessment.

[HB 4042 \(Rep. Stone\)](#) Removes the requirement for the 2020-21 school year so that districts are not required to administer the M-STEP in order to receive state aid.

[HB 4048 \(Rep. Paquette\)](#) School Aid Supplemental Appropriations Spending Bill (Federal CRF dollars) \*Tie-Barred to HB 4049

[HB 4049 \(Rep. Hornberger\)](#) Restricts the director of the Department of Health and Human Services from closing a public or nonpublic school to in-person instruction or prohibiting a qualified sporting event during an epidemic involving coronavirus. The bill would permit a local health officer to close a public or nonpublic school to in-person instruction or prohibit a qualified sporting event if certain criteria are met.

[SB 56 \(Sen. Horn\)](#) & [SB 57 \(Sen. Horn\)](#) would modify performance evaluation systems for public school teachers and school administrators. The legislation would remove the required that student growth data to be used in evaluations. Further, this change would allow local district to include data if they choose to do so.

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## ICYMI: MDE Updates

### **MEMO #007-21**

#### *Child Protection Registry*

The state of Michigan is offering a free program to stop adult-oriented advertisements from reaching e-mails and mobile phones (text messaging ads). The Michigan Child Protection Registry, created by Michigan's state legislature in 2004, allows Michigan schools and families to protect their students from receiving adult-themed content and is located at [www.ProtectMiChild.com](http://www.ProtectMiChild.com). [Read the full memo.](#)

### **MEMO #008-21**

#### *Robotics Competition Grant Award Announcement*

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is announcing that robotics competition grants are being awarded this year. These grant funds are provided from section 99h of the state school aid act and will fund more than 2,800 FIRST Robotics, Square One, and VEX teams in 400 public school districts, both traditional local school districts and public school academies, and 58 nonpublic schools across the state. [Read the full memo.](#)

### **MEMO #009-21**

#### *Public Comment on the Proposed Standards for the Preparation of Elementary and Secondary K-12 and Central Office Administrators*

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is requesting public comment on

the proposed Michigan standards for the preparation of elementary and secondary K-12 and central office administrators. The two sets of standards are drawn directly from the National Policy Board for Education Administration's National Education Leadership Preparation Standards (NELPS) and will guide preparation of candidates seeking certification and/or endorsement in these fields. [Read the full memo.](#)