

# LegislativeUpdate

Michigan Association of Superintendents & Administrators | November 15, 2019



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## Summary

In what's becoming a familiar refrain, nothing really happened in Lansing this week. At least nothing related to education policy or anything that moves the state closer to a resolution over the supplemental budget standoff between legislative leaders in the House and Senate, and legislative leaders and the governor. The major point of disagreement still reportedly remains with Sen. Mike Shirkey on one side and Gov. Whitmer and Speaker Chatfield on the other over the degree to which a supplemental budget deal will include limiting the powers of the governor related to the State Administrative Board.

House session was scheduled this week for Wednesday so that a final deal could be voted on, but that ended up fizzling out. Now with lawmakers on an unofficial hunting break, it's unlikely both chambers will return to work before December. The Senate has scheduled a tentative session day for Wednesday of next week, so there remains a possibility something happens then, however unlikely.

This unfortunately means that districts waiting for resolution on Sec. 22d (small and isolated district funding) will have to continue to wait. Restoration of that funding requires an act of the Legislature and with no session scheduled until December, that cannot happen.

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

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## **Michigan Merit Curriculum Rewrite – Hearing Two**

Tuesday, the Senate Education Committee met to take testimony on SB 600, the bill sponsored by Rep. Bumstead which proposes many changes to the bill. Several groups weighed in on the pros and cons of the bill. The MASA Government Relations & Policy Committee (GRPC) has not yet taken a position on the bill as we continue to gather input from regional representatives on the pros and cons of the legislation.

State Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice testified with no position on the bill, rather offered the committee the possibility of a workgroup with MDE to work on the bill to ensure a deliberative resolution on the policy. MASA's GRPC discussed the bill on Wednesday (after the hearing) and also will be taking a cautious position at this time. While the committee has noted over the past few months that increased flexibility and the intention behind the bill are important and priorities the association could support, strong concerns remain in the field about the elimination of the personal curriculum and the persistent focus on specific course titles in state law.

We will continue to work with stakeholders, the bill sponsor, and legislative staff to craft a cohesive position that balances the wide range of concerns expressed by members.

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## **MDE Releases Guidance on PD**

In their weekly memo distribution to the field, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) included some information related to a new section of law allowing certain professional development to qualify as days/hours of instructional time.

The [memo](#) essentially re-states the law in [MCL 388.1701\(10\)](#) allowing a district to count up to 38 hours of qualifying professional development time for teachers as hours of pupil instruction if all of the following requirements are satisfied:

- A district-wide professional development advisory committee appointed by the district school board recommends at least 8 hours of the professional development. The advisory committee must be composed of teachers employed by the district who represent a variety of grades and subject matter specializations, including special education; nonteaching staff; parents; and administrators. The majority membership of the committee shall be composed of teaching staff. The professional development hours are used to offset instructional time for pupils whose teachers participated in the professional development. The professional development

is aligned to the school or district improvement plan for the school or district in which the professional development is being provided.

- The professional development is linked to one or more criteria in the evaluation tool developed or adopted by the district or intermediate district under Section 1249 of the Revised School Code, MCL 380.1249.
- The Michigan Department of Education has approved the professional development and confirmed that it may be counted for State Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECH).
- Not more than a combined total of 10 hours of the professional development takes place before the first scheduled day of school for the school year and after the last scheduled day of school for that school year.
- No more than 10 hours of qualifying professional development takes place in a single month.
- At least 75% of teachers scheduled to participate in the professional development are in attendance.
- Qualifying professional development must exceed five hours in one day.
- If the professional development is provided online, the district must have approved the instruction.

What remains unclear is whether or not professional development that took place before October 1, 2019 will be considered "qualifying" by the department. MASA is working with lawmakers and MDE to clarify that this was the intent of the legislature, but don't yet have concrete guidance on this issue. This will, of course, be subject to local decision making and bargaining, but we encourage all inquiries for clarification on qualifying PD be directed to the Department of Education, at (517) 241-5000 or [novMDE-EducatorHelp@michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-EducatorHelp@michigan.gov).