



Michigan Association of Superintendents & Administrators

MASA Legislative Update

Brought to you by: **SET**
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Summary

This week in Lansing was relatively slow. The House did not have a voting session this week, and the Senate met on Wednesday and took action on a few items, including qualified licensees for COVID testing services, driver's licenses late renewal fees, remote signing of documents, and nursing homes. The Senate adjourned on Wednesday until November 4. The House is currently scheduled to meet next Wednesday, but we don't anticipate many newsworthy actions there.

With the recent Supreme Court decision and continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Lame Duck forecast for this December is now projected to be full of action... We will know more of what to expect closer to the legislature's November Hunting Break.

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

Treasury Releases Information on Teacher and School Support Staff COVID-19 Grants

As you are aware, the **legislature included one-time hazard payments for both teachers and school support staff in the FY 2020-21 budget to recognize the additional work of school staff during the COVID-19 pandemic.** The Michigan Department of Treasury has released information on program details and requirements for districts.

School Districts and nonprofit nonpublic schools are required to identify eligible classroom teachers and support staff and email eligible grant recipients [Form 5734, the Teacher and Support Staff COVID-19 Grants Certification](#), by November 9, 2020.

Eligible Classroom teachers must return [Form 5734, the Teacher and Support Staff COVID-19 Grants Certification](#), to the district or nonprofit nonpublic school in the form and manner the district requires by December 4, 2020.

School districts and nonprofit nonpublic schools are then required to compile the list of eligible classroom teachers and electronically submit the list by December 16, 2020 using the electronic submission system and form provided by the Michigan Department of Treasury.

Treasury will then send checks directly to eligible staff around February 25, 2021.

Further details and information can be found [here](#). Questions on this process can be emailed to Treasury at TSSC19Grants@michigan.gov

The School Based Mental Health Providers Coalition Releases Toolkit

The School Based Mental Health Providers Coalition and its partners have created a [Return to School Mental Health Toolkit](#) that provides school community members and stakeholders, both in-person and remote learning, with tools and resources. The toolkit is a living document, meaning that it will continue to be updated as new information becomes available.

The toolkit was created also to implement the features of the Governor's Return to School Roadmap.

AASA Updates

Please see the important information below from our friends at AASA:

CDC Considerations for Testing for K-12 School Administrators and Public Health Officials

The CDC has updated the [Interim Considerations for Testing for K-12 School Administrators and Public Health Officials](#) to align with increased availability of tests and evidence that became available since the original posting on June 30, 2020. This updated resource describes the types of viral tests used to diagnose COVID-19, how school administrators can engage public health officials, and testing strategy options. [Testing](#) alone is not an effective prevention strategy, but can be used as part of a comprehensive plan that is informed by local [indicators](#) and tailored to a school's available resources, ability to implement [risk mitigation practices](#), and appropriate for the level of COVID-19 in the surrounding community. The considerations continue to encourage school administrators to work with [STLT public health officials](#) to decide if and how to use testing and to support [contact tracing](#) by notifying them of cases and outbreaks.

HHS Mask Distribution to Schools Underway -- Request Your Districts' Now

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will be providing up

to [125 million cloth masks](#) to states for distribution to schools. The

Administration intends for these masks to support students, teachers, and staff in public and private schools reopening, with an emphasis on students who are low-income or otherwise with high needs and schools providing in-person instruction.

This week we learned that **school districts can immediately begin requesting masks from State Health Departments for adults**. All states have received shipments of white, reusable and washable masks for adults and districts in need of additional masks can request them anytime. A few states are already in receipt of reusable, washable masks for youth/children, but most of these masks are still being manufactured and distributed. It is expected that many more states will have youth size masks available in the next two weeks, and by early November all states will have both youth and adult size masks available for distribution to schools. More information on the masks is available [here](#).

National COVID-19 School Response Dashboard

The AASA National COVID-19 School Response dashboard is now live. Give it a perusal! Thank you to all state executives who were able to push the dashboard enrollment request out to members. If you would like to receive the sample/draft message you can use with your members, please contact Noelle Ellerson Ng at nellerson@aasa.org.

Related information:

- [Project landing page](#)
 - [Enroll Your District](#)
 - [Enroll Your School](#)
 - Archive of [9/23 Dashboard Webinar](#)
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ICYMI: MDE Updates

MEMO #098-20

COVID-19 Education Survey Launch

Since March 2020, schools and districts across the state have experienced tremendous disruption due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Subsequently, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) requested that the Education Policy Innovation Collaborative (EPIC) at Michigan State University work in partnership with MDE and the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) to begin to understand the impacts of the pandemic on schools, educators, and students.

Educator voice is critical to understanding the myriad ways that COVID-19 is shaping how districts and schools are providing instruction and serving their students and communities. Therefore, EPIC has begun surveying all K-12 teachers, principals, and district superintendents about their perspectives on how the pandemic has affected their work with students and staff in their schools and districts. Superintendents and principals will receive communication from EPIC, and teachers will be contacted via their emails from the Michigan Online Educator Certification System (MOECS). [Read the full memo.](#)

Submitting Extended COVID-19 Learning Plans

As previously communicated in the [Oct. 5 MDE Memo](#), **Extended COVID-19 Learning Plans must be reconfirmed monthly at school board meetings. In addition, the following information must be reported** to CEPI, per [Public Act 165 of 2020](#):

- The instructional delivery method.
- How instruction will be delivered for each grade level offered by the district, including prekindergarten.
- Whether or not the district is offering higher levels of in-person instruction for English language learners, special education students or other special populations.

The first submission, due Nov. 6, 2020, will allow districts to submit plan information for the months of September, October and November. In partnership with MDE, this information will be collected in the GEMS-MARS application. The application will be available for the first submission later this week; additional details (including a link for reporting) will be sent to your EEM authorized users and district lead administrators.

For more information, please read the [Submitting Extended COVID-19 Learning Plans](#) document.

