

LegislativeUpdate

Michigan Association of Superintendents & Administrators | March 22, 2019



In this update:

- Summary
- [Evaluation Update](#)
- [ICYMI: MASA Released Educator Shortage Strategic Plan](#)
- [Ways and Means](#)
- [MDE Extends State Testing Window](#)

Summary

This week the legislature adjourned for Spring Break and will not be back in session until Tuesday, April 9. We will not be sending updates during that period of time but will alert you should something come up.

In case you missed the announcement, MASA will be holding MASA Under the Dome, a spring advocacy day, on April 23. The event will include a briefing on current state legislation and issues related to public education, presentations on hot topics that impact public schools, a training session on how to effectively engage with legislators, and a luncheon with staff members and lawmakers.

[Click Here to Register](#)

Evaluation Update

This week both the House and Senate Education committees met on evaluations. On the House side, no bills were on the agenda, but Chairwoman Hornberger (R-Chesterfield) invited a group of individuals to present an overview of Michigan's evaluation system. The conversation lasted the duration of the committee, Rep. Hornberger indicated that this is an important issue for her district, and she intends to have an ongoing conversation on the topic. There are two House Bills, HB 4221 sponsored by Rep. Julie Alexander (R-Hanover) and HB 4222 sponsored by Rep. Scott VanSingel (R -Grant) that would keep the percentage of assessment data used in evaluations at 25 percent. The bills were introduced in late February. It is not clear if the House will hold a hearing on them in the near future.

In the Senate, testimony and action was taken on SB 122 and SB 202, the Senate versions of the growth percentage change. The bills are both sponsored by Sen. Ken Horn (R-Frankenmuth). The senator testified to his bills, stating that this issue is one that he has heard from his constituents consistently on and made a priority to get this change passed into law for this school year. The bills were amended in committee to change the effective date of the bill so that evaluations for this year will remain at 25 percent. However, language was also added in the amendment to require the percentage of student growth and assessment data to increase to

40 percent for the 2019-2020 school year. The committee determined that more work was needed on evaluations before a permanent fix. This comports with the House conversation. The bills were reported unanimously out of committee and now are on the Senate floor.

ICYMI: MASA Releases Educator Shortage Strategic Plan

As you know, in December 2017 MASA formed the Educator Shortage Workgroup (ESW). This cohort includes 21 superintendents representing regions from across the state to address the educator shortage problem that most districts are experiencing. The ESW also met with various stakeholder groups experiencing educator shortages. As a result of this work, the ESW released a strategic plan titled “[Turning the Tide on the Talent Shortage – A Strategic Plan to Revitalize Careers for Michigan’s Current and Future Educators](#).” This document contains relevant context and target strategies in order to grow the pool of qualified candidates, strengthening the recruitment and placement of qualified candidates and strategies to retain and support quality educators. In total this plan contains 11 target strategies that MASA and others will pursue.

We extend our gratitude to all the hard work of the Educator Shortage Workgroup and MASA members in identifying areas to target in order to address this problem. Please take a moment to read the report and share it with your HR administrators and hiring teams.

Ways and Means

The House Ways and Means Committee held a hearing on HB 4162, legislation that would remove the requirement that the Michigan Merit Exam (MME) include an assessment that can be used in evaluating the student's workforce readiness – Michigan currently uses the ACT WorkKeys Assessment to fulfill that requirement. The bill, sponsored by Rep. John Reilly (R-Oakland Twp.), was reported to Ways and Means from the Education Reform Committee on February 26.

As you know, the House implemented a new committee structure this session that now means most legislation will be reviewed a second time before being sent to the House floor. The second review will be conducted by one of four committees: House Appropriations, Government Operations, Judiciary, or Ways and Means. So far this year, we have observed that this new process has most bills referred to a first committee that handles that respective topic, and then be referred to a second committee before being sent to the House Floor.

HB 4162 was the first education-related bill taken up by the House Ways and Means Committee. Prior to yesterday's hearing, there was not a clear understanding of how the testimony process would work. The Ways and Means Committee invited several of the stakeholders that previously testified on the bill during the hearing in the Education Reform Committee, and similar testimony was presented. The Chair of the Education Reform Committee, Rep. Pamela Hornberger (R-Chesterfield) testified with the bill sponsor, who provided additional testimony to what was delivered to the initial committee. Additionally, there was new testimony from stakeholder groups in opposition to the bill that did not testify in the Education Committee. Questions remain on how proposed amendments will be handled in the future by this two-step committee process as well as if testimony on bills will be required twice consistently. No vote was taken on the bill due to new testimony in opposition to the bill from the business community. MASA will continue to monitor this two-step committee process and develop a best practice in order to see the passage of bills that are our priority.

MDE Extends State Testing Window

On Thursday MDE released a memo addressing concerns they received from throughout the state regarding testing and lost days of instruction due to snow days. As a result of a record number of snow days this year, the testing window for all Michigan-developed state assessments, the M-Step, MI-Access and Early Literacy will be extended by one week. For WIDA, PSAT, SAT, ACT and WorkKeys the testing windows will remain the same because they are nationally administered. You can [read the full correspondence from the department here](#).