

# LegislativeUpdate

Michigan Association of School Administrators | December 1, 2017



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### Summary

It's hard to believe it's already December. We hope you and your family had a great Thanksgiving and are refreshed for the last month of 2017. While we await

the final decision on the federal tax legislation, many other issues have percolated in Lansing concerning education policy. Read on for more details. Right now, the topic that will consume the most oxygen in the Capitol will be municipal retirement benefits and efforts by the Legislature to reform those systems, specifically as they relate to OPEB (other post employment benefits) like health care. MASA likely will not weigh in on these discussions, but we will monitor them.

As a quick note, the CTE bills are still being tweaked and a hearing for their consideration is [scheduled](#) for Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. MASA continues to work on our concerns with bill sponsors.

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

### ESSA Plan Approved

Late Tuesday evening the U.S. Department of Education announced that it had approved Michigan's plan to comply with the new Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

ESSA is the federal K-12 education law passed in late 2015 that replaced the No Child Left Behind Act. ESSA requires states to develop plans that address standards, assessments, school and district accountability, and special help for struggling schools.

Michigan's plan was submitted in early April, and the state was required to make a number of revisions and clarifications before it was ultimately accepted. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos in a statement urged Michigan to

continue to find innovative ways to educate in our state.

According to MDE, Michigan's plan will do the following:

- Develop a "Parent Transparency Dashboard" to give parents a clearer understanding of where their child's school is performing on things like student achievement, academic growth, attendance, and graduation.
- Michigan's accountability system will identify "Comprehensive Support Schools" and "Targeted Support Schools" and provide varying levels of support and assistance.
- The Partnership Model that the state has instituted will continue in order to help schools and districts most in need – developing locally driven solutions and measures of success, with the help of other state, local, and regional partners.
- Every school will be conducting a Comprehensive Needs Assessment to study their resources and data, to find their school's needs and gaps, and develop a School Improvement Plan, based on the results of that process.
- There will be greater focus on developing the best educators, providing targeted professional development for teachers; honoring and lifting up Michigan educators; creating a stronger teacher preparation and development system with Michigan colleges and universities and other partners.

— *Source: Michigan Department of Education*

MDE is now in the process of designing the transparency dashboard. As a reminder, MASA has been working with MDE on this issue advocating against a summative letter grade that oversimplifies school performance in favor of a

dashboard that tells a deeper story. The initial version is tentatively scheduled to be presented during the State Board of Education meeting in January.

### Legislature Seeks Oversight on Vaccine Policy

A pair of bills regarding immunizations were debated this week in the House Oversight Committee. HB 5162 sponsored by Rep. Steve Johnson (R-Wayland) aims to limit the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) from creating new rules for immunizations including the ages and doses a vaccine must be administered and prohibiting the department from requiring any new immunizations. This bill would instead require new immunizations to be approved by a vote of the state Legislature.

HB 5163 sponsored by Rep. John Reilly (R-Oakland Twp.) would similarly prohibit MDHHS from implementing new immunizations as requirements for school entry, including new vaccines. HB 5163 would uphold the current waiver process that allows families to obtain a waiver to exempt their child from any vaccine for medical, religious, philosophical or other reasons.

While the room was packed with many individuals supporting the legislation, organized opposition came from many statewide associations representing medical professionals and educators, including MASA and MASB.

While this issue is slightly different than previous versions of vaccine legislation, the underlying point remains that medical experts, not legislators, should be determining the above factors. The bills did not move out of the committee, and it is unclear if the votes are there for passage.

## CTE Tools Released

The Michigan Department of Education announced Tuesday new documents to help local school districts with developing their career and technical education programs.

The "Career Preparation Readiness Manual" and the "Career and Technical Education (CTE) Playbook" were created by the MDE's Office of Career and Technical Education in partnership with the Department of Talent and Economic Development (TED). The "Career and Technical Education Playbook" provides local administrators with tools to determine what CTE programs would be best for their community; the "Career Preparation Readiness Manual" provides information on designing the programs.

"There are many outstanding CTE programs growing in collaboration with local partners that are making a difference for their students and their communities as a whole," Superintendent of Public Instruction Brian Whiston said in a statement announcing the documents. "These new tools can inspire other districts, and show educators how they can create similarly successful programs in their districts."

Both guides are posted at [www.michigan.gov/octe](http://www.michigan.gov/octe).

## Federal Update

As the finishing touches are put on the federal bill to overhaul the tax system, AASA is encouraging changes to the package to preserve education funding programs in the final product. This is not to say that AASA has a position on tax

reform in general, rather specific components of the current legislation.

In a letter to lawmakers, AASA urges Congress to rewrite the plan to preserve the state and local tax deduction, to ensure that 529 Accounts remain a benefit to higher education, to protect and preserve Qualified Zone Academy Bonds, and to ensure that in paying for its tax reform, the bill does not negatively or disproportionately impact non-defense discretionary funding, which provides for education.

You can find the AASA's letter to the Senate [here](#).

