



STATE OF MICHIGAN
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
LANSING



MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

March 3, 2006

TO: State Board of Education
FROM: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman 
SUBJECT: Legislative Update

As you probably know by now, the State House of Representatives passed the High School Graduation Requirement legislation, House Bill 5606, on March 2. While perhaps not on the timeline I had hoped, I believe we should be very pleased with the House action. The State Senate continues its statewide public hearings. The following will provide a more detailed report regarding these activities.

House Activity. HB 5606 included much of what the State Board of Education proposed to the Legislature in December 2005. The table below provides a comparison of the State Board's proposal and the legislation as passed by the House (changes by the House are in bold).

Board of Education Proposal	HB 5606, as passed by House
English Language Arts – 4 credits	English Language Arts – 4 credits
Mathematics – 4 credits, including Algebra II	Mathematics – 4 credits, including Algebra II
Science – 3 credits	Science – 3 credits
Social Science – 3 credits	Social Science – 3 credits
Health/Physical Education – 1 credit	Health/Physical Education – 1 credit
Visual and Performing Arts – 1 credit	Visual, Performing and Applied Arts – 1 credit
World Language 2 credits	State Board to develop K-12 World Language model recommendation
An online requirement	An online requirement
"Phase-in" for local school districts	A "phase-in" is included, but it is by tie-barring this bill to HB 4079-80. These bills are the "Ed-Flex" bills that have passed the House and are in the Senate Education Committee.
Student modification allowed after three years in Michigan Merit Curriculum.	Student modification after age 16 or in the 11th or 12th grade

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As the above indicates, most of the key credits have remained intact, however, we still have work to do regarding world language and the local school district phase-in. In addition, the House added some new concepts. Of concern is the language they included regarding the definition of each of the core subject areas. These definitions are not very accurate and will only serve to create controversy, confusion, and time delays in finalizing the implementation of this proposal. The legislation also adds a "personalized curriculum" concept, which requires all students to receive specific counseling regarding the new high school graduation requirements.

Senate Activity. The Senate Education Committee continues to hold public hearings. These hearings will be over on March 7. We believe Senator Kuipers will begin hearings on the actual bill on March 9. During the course of the public hearings, Senator Kuipers has heard diverse testimony regarding the State Board's proposal. We believe that the Senator will develop a proposal that is strongly complementary of the State Board's proposal, however, like the House version, the Department will work with the Senator to try to ensure a workable proposal is placed before the Legislature.

Conclusion. We should be pleased with the success of the State Board of Education's recommendations thus far. There is clearly much work that needs to be done, but it seems pretty clear that a very substantial part of the State Board's proposal will be forwarded to the Governor. I would like to thank the State Board for their participation at the various public hearings in the House and particularly the Senate. Your participation has sent a powerful and important message to many members of the Legislature.

As always, if you have any questions or need additional clarification on these or other issues, please do not hesitate to contact either Bob Morris or myself.



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TO: State Board of Education
FROM: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman 
DATE: March 7, 2006
SUBJECT: Update on Federal Issues

PRESIDENT BUSH RELEASES FISCAL YEAR 2007 BUDGET

What the Bush Administration did not achieve in its education goals in the Fiscal Year 2006 budget, it has presented anew in the FY07 budget recommendations. From 42 proposed program eliminations (see Appendix A) that range from Women's Educational Equity, to Comprehensive School Reform and Carl D. Perkins Vocational Education State Grants, to a minimal increase in funding of \$100 million for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and an overall disappointing federal investment in education, the budget represents what seems to have become a trend in de-emphasizing domestic discretionary spending. The No Child Left Behind Act funding is frozen at the 2006 level of \$12.7 billion. Over all, the budget proposal represents an estimated 5 percent cut in education funding (Appendix B), and an overall re-focusing on issues on which the Administration wants to prioritize.

While last year's signature recommendation was high school reform, this year's new investment goals are math and science, and a re-distribution of some public funds into the non-public sector. The first hint of this new thrust came in President George W. Bush's State of the Union address on January 31. Among the initiatives he announced and included in the budget are:

The American Competitiveness Initiative;

- \$125 million for a new Math Now for Elementary School Students program;
- \$125 million for a new Math Now for Middle School Students program;

A \$90 million increase for Advanced Placement (AP) to train 70,000 additional teachers for math, science and foreign language AP-International

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Baccalaureate (IB) courses and increase the number of students taking and passing AP-IB tests in those subjects;

- \$25 million for the Adjunct Teacher Corps to encourage qualified professionals to teach high school courses with an emphasis on math and science;
- A \$35 million increase, for a total of \$57 million, for the education piece of the National Security Language Initiative, designed to "significantly increase the number of American students and workers learning critical need foreign languages such as Arabic, Chinese, Korean and Russian.
- \$200 million for a new Title I School Improvement Grant program to assist states in building support systems for local school district and school improvement to meet NCLB proficiency goals.
- An increase of \$30 million for Statewide Data Systems to increase the overall support to \$55 million for state longitudinal data systems, to improve graduation and dropout data, and to help states comply with federal reporting requirements.

In the wake of the Katrina/Rita post-disaster aid debate, the Administration has forthrightly revved up the voucher debate in recommending a \$100 million new America's Opportunity Scholarships for Kids initiative. "While states have made improvements to implement NCLB choice options, there are still too few alternatives in many districts for parents seeking a quality education for their children..." the U.S. Department of Education news release, issued simultaneously with the President's budget, reads. The program "would provide parents of students enrolled in schools identified as in need of restructuring with more opportunities to transfer their children to a private school or obtain supplemental services."

e-RATE REFORM ON CONGRESSIONAL AGENDA

After keeping us on edge for two years running, the national library and education communities were granted exemptions from the Antideficiency Act for two consecutive years. This permitted contracts to be arranged before Universal Service taxes were accumulated to pay for technology acquisitions. In both years, it has been an uphill battle.

Now the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, and the House Committee on Energy and Commerce are undertaking a telecommunications reform effort that will include Universal Service and the e-Rate. House Energy and Commerce Chairman Joe Barton (R-Texas) has been highly critical of the e-Rate during his short tenure as chairman, even going so far as to call for its elimination. The General Accounting Office and his committee staff both compiled reports that raise issues of waste, fraud and abuse.

In the coming months the Congress will be working on reform. Michigan school districts and libraries uniformly have found this federal investment in technology to be extremely valuable. So that the Michigan Congressional Delegation would be aware of the interest in our state and the extent to which funds have been allocated, department staff compiled an information sheet on the e-Rate (See Appendix C). Michigan has four members on the House Committee, including Congressmen John D. Dingell (D-Dearborn), Fred Upton (R-St. Joseph), Bart Stupak (D-Menominee), and Mike Rogers (R-Brighton). Mr. Dingell, as the ranking Democrat on the Committee, and Mr. Upton and the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, are particularly critical players in this review.

CCSSO NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND TASK FORCE HOLDS FIRST MEETING

The Council of Chief State School Officers Board of Directors in mid-January appointed a 19-member Task Force on the Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Made up of six chief state school officers and an array of state education agency staff (See Appendix D), the task force met for the first time on February 1 in Washington, D.C., to lay out ground rules and determine priorities. The group is the brainchild of CCSSO President Valerie Woodruff, Secretary of Education for the State of Delaware, and chaired by Elizabeth Burmaster, Wisconsin Superintendent of Public Instruction. Ms. Roberta Stanley, Director of Administrative Law and Federal Relations in MDE, serves on the panel representing Michigan.

Chiefs agreed they wanted to have a major impact on the reauthorization that is expected to commence in 2007. In the immediate future Congressional field and oversight hearings are expected to be held throughout the second session of the 110th Congress in 2006. Since then, a new Chairman has been named to head the House Education and Workforce Committee, Congressman Howard "Buck" McKeon (R-California), who is likely to pursue the issue differently than the previous Chairman, John Boehner (D-Ohio), who was elected by his colleagues as House Majority Leader.

The task force collectively agreed to concentrate on the major issues of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), rather than what were referred to as the "in the weeds" issues. These major issues are especially, but not necessarily limited to, accountability, growth models, calculation of Adequate Yearly Progress, assessment instruments, teacher quality and investment, applicability to English Language Learners, correlation with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, school and district leadership, and state education agency ability/capacity.

CCSSO staff will be developing a matrix showing other elementary and secondary education-based organizations' positions, and the leadership from these organizations will be attending and presenting to the CCSSO Legislative Conference in April. To the extent possible CCSSO will collaborate with these groups and the National Governors' Association.

Committee For Education Funding

FY07 Education Program Eliminations

Education Department FY 2007 Discretionary Budget,

Program	2005 Appropriation	2006 Appropriation	2007 Request
<u>NCLB:</u>			
Foundations for Learning	992	982	0
Close Up Fellowships			
Excellence in Economic Education			
Women's Educational Equity			
School Dropout Prevention	4,930	4,851	0
Mental Health Integration in Schools	4,960	4,910	0
Comprehensive School Reform	205,344	7,920	0
Exchanges with Historic Whaling and Trading Partners	8,630	8,910	0
Javits Gifted and Talented	11,022	9,596	0
Ready to Teach^c			0
			0
			0
Star Schools			0
National Writing Project			0
SDFS Alcohol Abuse Reduction			0
Elementary School Counseling			0
Arts in Education			0
Parental Information and Resource Centers	41,886	39,600	0
Smaller Learning Communities	94,476	93,531	0
Even Start	225,095	99,000	0
Educational Technology State Grants	496,000	272,250	0
Safe and Drug-Free Schools State Grants	437,381	346,500	0
Total, NCLB	1,739,462	1,087,354	0
<u>Other K-12:</u>			
Academies for American history and civics	0	1,980	0
Vocational Education National Programs	11,757	9,164	0
Tech-Prep State Grants	105,812	104,754	
Vocational Education State Grants			
Total, Other K-12	1,311,900	1,298,286	0
<u>Postsecondary:</u>			
B.J. Stupak Olympic Scholarships	980	970	0
Underground Railroad Program	2,204	1,980	
Thurgood Marshall Legal Educational Opportunity Program	2,976	2,946	0
Demonstration Projects for Students with Disabilities	6,944	6,875	0
Byrd Honors Scholarships	40,672	40,590	0
Teacher Quality Enhancement	68,337	59,895	
Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership	65,643	64,987	0
Federal Perkins Loans Cancellations	66,132	65,471	0
TRIO Talent Search	144,649	145,330	0
GEAR UP	306,488		
TRIO Upward Bound	309,939	311,050	
Total, Postsecondary	1,014,964	1,003,517	

Committee For Education Funding

FY07 Education Program Eliminations

<u>All Other ED:</u>				
VR Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers	2,302	2,279	0	
VR Recreational Programs	2,543	2,518	0	
VR Projects with Industry	21,625	19,538	0	
State Grants for Incarcerated Youth Offenders	21,824	22,770	0	
VR Supported Employment State Grants	37,379	29,700	0	
Total, Other ED	85,673	76,805	0	
Total (42 Terminations)	4,151,999	3,465,962	0	

Department of Education (in millions of dollars)			
	2005 Actual	Estimate	
		2006	2007
Spending			
Discretionary Budget Authority:			
Elementary and Secondary Education:			
Title I Grants to LEAs ¹	12,740	12,713	
School Improvement Grants (non-add)	—	—	
Reading First and Early Reading First ²	1,146	1,132	
State Assessments	412	408	
Teacher Incentive Fund	—	99	
Teacher Quality State Grants	2,917	2,887	
Charter Schools programs	254	251	
America's Opportunity Scholarships for Kids	—	—	
Impact Aid	1,244	1,228	
Safe and Drug-Free Schools Programs	672	569	
21st Century Community Learning Centers	991	981	
English Language Acquisition	676	669	
IDEA Part B State Grants ³	10,590	10,583	
High School Programs:			
High School Reform	—	—	
Striving Readers	25	30	
Vocational Education ⁴	1,206	1,192	
TRIO Upward Bound	310	311	
TRIO Talent Search	145	145	
GEAR UP	306	303	
American Competitiveness Initiative:			
Math Now for Elementary Schools Students	—	—	
Math Now for Secondary School Students	—	—	
Advanced Placement	30	32	
National Mathematics Panel	—	—	
Evaluation of Mathematics and Science Education Programs	—	—	
Adjunct Teacher Corps	—	—	
Adult Education	579	573	
Higher Education:			
Pell Grants ⁵	12,365	17,345	
Perkins Loans Institutional Recall	—	—	
Perkins Loans Cancellations	66	65	
National Security Language Initiative activities	—	—	

Department of Education
(In millions of dollars)

	2005	Estimate	
	Actual	2006	2007
Historically Black Colleges and Graduate Institutions	297	296	296
Hispanic Serving Institutions	95	95	95
Research and Statistics ⁶	523	517	554
All other	9,590	4,128	7,229
Total, Discretionary budget authority ⁷	57,179	56,541	54,411
<i>Memorandum: Budget Authority from enacted supplementals</i>	—	1,600	—
Total, Discretionary outlays	56,998	58,840	56,830
Mandatory Outlays:			
Federal Direct Student Loans	2,280	4,791	63
Federal Family Education Loans	11,565	18,245	5,340
Academic Competitiveness Grants	—	190	789
All other	2,102	1,918	1,462
Total, Mandatory outlays	15,947	25,144	7,654
Total, Outlays	72,945	83,984	64,484
Credit activity			
Direct Loan Disbursements:			
Federal Direct Student Loans (FDSL)	12,359	13,649	14,705
FDSL Consolidations	15,136	13,740	7,908
Total, Direct loan disbursements	27,495	27,389	22,613
Guaranteed Loan Commitments:			
Family Federal Education Loans (FFEL)	28,443	45,616	49,186
FFEL Consolidation	53,134	45,311	25,128
Total, Guaranteed loan commitments	81,577	90,927	74,314

¹ Program level. Budget authority is \$195 million less than program level in 2006.

² Program level. Budget authority is \$195 million more than program level in 2006.

³ Program level. Budget authority is \$11 million less than program level in 2006 and \$791 million less than program level in 2007.

⁴ Program level. Budget authority is \$791 million more than program level in 2007.

⁵ Reflects new budget authority and not funding for shortfalls or surpluses. The Pell maximum award remains \$4,050 in all three years.

⁶ Includes special education research and studies funding in 2005.

⁷ Program level. Budget authority is \$11 million less than program level in 2006. The Deficit Reduction Act moved Section 458 Federal Student Aid funds for administrative expenses from the mandatory to the discretionary side of the budget in 2007. For comparability purposes, this change is reflected in the 2005 and 2006 columns as well.

E-rate in Michigan

The Telecommunications Act of 1996, created the E-rate program to provide schools, and libraries with affordable access to advanced telecommunications services. Under the program, discounts ranging from 20% to 90% on *telecommunications services, internet access, and internal connections* are provided to eligible school and library recipients up to a \$2.25 billion annual cap.

Since 1998, Michigan's schools and libraries have benefited by more than \$432 million in E-rate discounts, while all eligible schools and libraries nationwide have been committed more than \$14.6 billion. The chart below illustrates the commitments for each funding year and service category.¹

While Michigan has received a significant amount of funding for internal connections, the state's share is somewhat less than our population would typically draw because the current census poverty rate, on which the distribution is based, is lower than it would typically be.

82% of respondents reported that upgrading bandwidth most likely will not be possible without E-rate funding

The average school/library discount in MI is 59%

Funding Year	Telecommunications Service	Internet Access	Internal Connections	Lowest Discount Funded for IC	Totals
1998 - 1	\$27,498,581.42	\$3,176,091.96	\$27,688,259.34	70%	\$58,362,932.72
1999 - 2	\$22,643,796.94	\$5,489,978.51	\$51,929,112.92	20%	\$80,062,888.37
2000 - 3	\$27,647,072.82	\$5,420,168.99	\$20,475,062.41	82%	\$53,542,304.22
2001 - 4	\$24,479,157.73	\$6,580,176.74	\$44,396,641.97	87%	\$75,455,976.44
2002 - 5	\$28,340,154.25	\$8,057,286.35	\$18,875,339.10	81%	\$55,272,779.70
2003 - 6	\$21,674,422.34	\$7,462,244.34	\$15,319,793.44	70%	\$44,456,460.12
2004 - 7	\$21,152,396.16	\$7,495,520.89	\$15,705,674.22	81%	\$44,353,591.27
Totals	\$173,435,581.66	\$43,681,467.78	\$194,389,883.40		\$411,506,932.84

These figures represent the enormous success of the E-rate in not only providing much-needed connectivity, but also serving as the bedrock of the delivery system for quality education in today's schools. In August 2005, a survey of Michigan school applicants who responded to an official state survey revealed:

Nearly 51% of Michigan's schools reported that they reinvest E-rate savings into other technology expenditures and 51% reported that E-rate accelerated the installation of technology in their schools.

More than 47% of public schools indicated that they use E-rate discounted services to assist in complying with No Child Left Behind Act requirements, through improved parent-teacher communications, distance learning, Advanced Placement (AP) courses and online data reporting.

In 1998, 78% of Michigan's schools had bandwidth at less than T-1 speeds (with 39% having only dial-up connectivity or none at all). In 2005, 47% of all Michigan schools had connectivity at T-1 speeds, and 44% of schools had greater than T-1 connectivity. More than 61% of schools attributed this increase in bandwidth directly to E-rate funding.

More than 56% of schools indicate they will need to increase their bandwidth even more in the next 1-3 years (35% will need more bandwidth in the next 4-10 years) and of those schools, 82% reported that it most likely will not be possible without E-rate funding.

The success of the E-rate program and its benefit to students, classrooms and schools cannot be overstated. The program must remain in place for years to come to ensure that schools and their students have continuity of service with updated technological access and equipment. While most applicants would prefer that the program's burdensome forms and requirements be simplified, they are in uniform agreement that E-rate is vital to providing quality education to prepare students to be digital citizens in a global society.

¹ Amounts listed were obtained from the SLD's Data Retrieval Tool and reflect authorized commitments as of October 20, 2005. Actual disbursements made to these entities (either via discounts or reimbursements) may be less depending on actual amounts spent.



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