



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



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SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

August 23, 2005

**TO:** State Board of Education  
**FROM:** Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman   
**SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

During the first half of August, the Legislature did not hold session. No meetings of either the House or the Senate Education Committees occurred. However, the Senate Appropriations Committee did meet on several occasions to discuss the Hay Group report on education health benefits; no immediate legislation is expected. In addition, a number of meetings and discussions have taken place regarding budget and other legislative issues coming before the Legislature later this month and in September.

**Budget Issues:** At this point, it appears the budget is not going to be finalized until late September. Staff has been working with key legislators, their staff, and key officials from the Administration to address a number of concerns regarding the Department's budget and the School Aid budget. It is our hope that this work will help address concerns with both budgets as the budget negotiations continue. Regarding the School Aid budget, we continue to work towards funding the Education Reform Study for Public Education (Best Practices Study). In the Department's budget, we continue to work on the out-of-state travel by the State Board and efforts to streamline the Department's reporting of travel expenses.

**Child Protection Legislation.** This package of bills to address the problem of child sexual predators is being finalized and should be on its way to the Governor in September. Staff has worked with the House, the Senate, and the Governor's Office to address a number of concerns. A number of clarifications have been made regarding the Sex Registration list and self-reporting requirements. Staff from a number of state departments continue to work on state reporting requirements – which currently would be redundant and expensive to implement.

**Administrative Certification.** As reported at the last State Board meeting on August 9, SB 673 and SB 674 are currently in the Senate Education Committee. It is anticipated that the bills will be brought up in September.

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**Keeping Kids in School.** This initiative continues as staff prepares for the September 2 meeting on this issue encompassing Zero Tolerance, truancy issues, and other barriers that keep students from graduating from high school. Bob Morris has had an opportunity to discuss this concept with some legislators and legislative staff and has received positive feedback.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact me or Bob Morris.