

**STATE SCHOOL AID DATA UPDATED FOR MARCH**

The March state school aid payment is the 6<sup>th</sup> payment of the year and reflects 54.54% of the year's allocation for Sections 22a, 51c, and 22b as well as for most categoricals. Prior year adjustments are made at 100% in a single payment. The payment will post at the districts' banks on Friday, March 18, 2005.

**Taxable value** figures used to calculate the March payment represent the tax year 2004 values provided by the county treasurers via the web based taxable valuation collection process. These data can be viewed by school district personnel on the Department's website. The new URL is <http://mdoe.state.mi.us/taxvalue> (see related item below). Any revisions to taxable values received prior to March 2, 2005 were incorporated into the payment calculation. To view your data click on "Public Access," and then choose your district code and the appropriate tax year from the drop down menu.

Now that the taxable valuation collection process is web based, county treasurers can make revisions to the reported values at any time. At a minimum, we request that they revise the values on the same schedule that values were reported to the Department under the paper collection process (DS-4410). That means that county treasurers should now report the taxable valuations as of the date that they settled with the local unit treasurers. Letters to the treasurers requesting that they report those values, if they haven't already, will be sent to the treasurers soon. The settlement numbers will have value changes from the July and December Boards of Review as well as any other changes since the fourth Monday in May. Districts may want to contact their county treasurers as well to encourage them to report the revised values.

Questions concerning the taxable value figures should first be directed to the appropriate county treasurer.

The **membership blend** used to calculate the March payment incorporated all Single Record Student Database (SRSD) pupil (FTE) counts released to the Department as of March 2, 2005, the date the department downloaded the pupil counts from the Center for Educational Performance and Information. The membership blend for most districts and public school academies (PSAs) for FY 2005 is 25% of the February 11, 2004 supplemental count and 75% of the September 22, 2004 pupil count. All of the February 11, 2004 count data are audited. Most of the September 22, 2004 count data are audited as well, as the due date for the September 22, 2004 count audits was March 9, 2005.

**Updated categoricals** for the March payment include:

- **Michigan School Readiness grants** - Section 32d (Connie Robinson, Early Childhood Education and Family Services, (517) 241-4291, [RobinsonConnie@Michigan.gov](mailto:RobinsonConnie@Michigan.gov)).
- **Court Placed Children** - Section 24 (Dianne Easterling, Special Education and Early Intervention Services, (517) 241-4517, [EasterlingD@Michigan.gov](mailto:EasterlingD@Michigan.gov)).
- **Special Education** - Section 54 (Dianne Easterling, Special Education and Early Intervention Services, (517) 241-4517, [EasterlingD@Michigan.gov](mailto:EasterlingD@Michigan.gov)).
- **Bilingual Education** - Section 41 (Field Services, (517) 373-3921)
- **Special Education** - Tuition Deduct (Deaf) (Dianne Easterling, Special Education and Early Intervention Services, (517) 241-4517, [EasterlingD@michigan.gov](mailto:EasterlingD@michigan.gov)).
- **Advanced and Accelerated** - Section 57 (David Mills, School Improvement, (517) 373-4213, [MillsD@Michigan.gov](mailto:MillsD@Michigan.gov)).

**SPECIAL EDUCATION COSTS UPDATED**

The March payment was calculated with updated special education and special education transportation cost figures for all districts. The figures now being used are the costs reported for FY 2004. In addition to affecting

the current year Section 51c - Special Education Headlee amount, this update may cause adjustments to the current year Section 22b - Discretionary Payment as well as causing prior year adjustments for FY 2004 Section

51c and possibly FY 2004 Section 22b. See the February UPDATE for a related article. Questions concerning these changes may be directed to Dianne Easterling, (517) 241-4517, [EasterlingD@Michigan.gov](mailto:EasterlingD@Michigan.gov).

### **WEB ADDRESSES CHANGING**

The Department is updating server equipment and migrating data to the new servers. As a result, the web addresses where you find certain school aid related data and documents have either changed or will be changing in the near future. The web based taxable value application process, where you can find the taxable values reported by the county treasurers, can be found at the following URL. Be sure to update your "bookmarks/favorites."

<http://mdoe.state.mi.us/taxvalue>

The URL will be changing for the State School Aid Financial Status Report and the State School Aid UPDATE sometime in the near future.

### **TAX INCREMENT FINANCING (TIF) PLAN AUDIT LETTERS MAILED**

As mentioned in the January 2005 State School Aid UPDATE, the Local Audit and Finance Division of the Michigan Department of Treasury has finalized several audits of Tax Increment Financing Authorities, Local Development Financing Authorities, and Downtown Development Authorities. These audits have determined the actual amount of school operating taxes that the authorities were entitled to "capture" and the amount of taxable value that the county should have reported to the Department as "captured assessed valuation" (CAV). The CAV is used in the state school aid calculation formula. If the CAV reported is too high, the district has been overpaid state school aid. Conversely, if the CAV was reported too low, the district has been underpaid state school aid. The audits have resulted in findings that will generate prior year state school adjustments for approximately 55 school districts. Letters dated March 11 under the signature of the Deputy Treasurer and the Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction have been mailed to the affected districts. It is the Department's intention to process the school aid adjustments in the April 2005 payment. Contact Phil Boone, State Aid and School Finance, (517) 335-4059 or [BooneP2@michigan.gov](mailto:BooneP2@michigan.gov) with related questions.

### **FINDING LEGISLATION ON THE WEB**

Each year there are several bills proposed that would affect school districts in one way or another. Some of the bills would, if enacted, affect a district's state school aid. To view the latest version of a pending House Bill (HB) or Senate Bill (SB) on the web go to [www.Michiganlegislature.org](http://www.Michiganlegislature.org). You will be prompted for the bill number. Many bills affecting school districts amend existing language in the State School Aid Act or the Revised School Code. The House Bill or Senate Bill will reprint the whole section of the State School Aid Act or Revised School Code that is being amended, so the bill can be quite lengthy. However, you can focus in on the change in the language, as any language that is being deleted is lined out and any language that is being added is in bold. Once a bill is enacted you can find it at the same website using the Public Act (PA) number.

### **APRIL 2005 MSBO CONFERENCE IN GRAND RAPIDS**

Department staff will be attending and presenting at the annual MSBO conference in Grand Rapids this year. As in recent years, the Department will have a booth in the "Products and Services Show." This is an opportunity for you to stop by with any questions or concerns that you prefer voicing on an individual basis. Even if you do not have a question or concern, we welcome you to stop by and introduce yourself to us, as it is helpful to put a name with a face. Or, if you are an "old friend," please stop by as well as we enjoy hearing what is new with you.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

- The 4<sup>th</sup> quarterly count date for **Adult Education** program participants is the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday in April, **April 27, 2005**.
- **Single Record Student Database files** for the Supplemental count are due to the **ISD by March 16** and to **CEPI by March 30, 2005**. Dr. Mark Gover, (517) 373-2469 or [GoverM@Michigan.gov](mailto:GoverM@Michigan.gov).

- The **DS-4168B Planned Days and Clock Hours Report** is due April 15, 2005. The report is available on line at [www.Michigan.gov/mde](http://www.Michigan.gov/mde). Click on “keywords” then “State Aid Forms.” Joellen Wonsey, (517) 373-3352 or [WonseyJ@Michigan.gov](mailto:WonseyJ@Michigan.gov).
- The per pupil proration factor for the Section 31a - At Risk funding is \$128.3388873423

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**\*Do you have questions about the information appearing in this UPDATE? Call the consultants identified above or Dan Hanrahan, Director, State Aid & School Finance, MDE, phone: (517) 335-0521, fax: (517) 241-0196, e-mail: [HanrahanD@Michigan.gov](mailto:HanrahanD@Michigan.gov).**