



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

December 21, 2010

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Mike Flanagan, State Superintendent 

SUBJECT: Legislative Update

**State Update**

As reported previously, the Michigan Legislature returns on the second Wednesday in January (Michigan Constitution Article IV § 13) which for 2011 falls on January 12. At that time, the new Legislature begins its new session, with the new members being sworn into office and leadership votes officially occurring.

Senate Committee Leadership

The Senate has announced the chairs and minority vice-chairs of the Senate Committees. If past practice is any determinant, the House will name its committee chairs in late January or February. The following are the chairs, vice-chairs (VC), and minority vice-chairs of the committees that will have great influence over education policy or appropriations issues (the rest of committee membership has yet to be named).

Appropriations – Senate Appropriations Committee  
Senator Roger Kahn (Chair)  
Senator Elect John Moolenaar (VC)  
Senator Glenn Anderson (Minority VC)

K-12, School Aid and Education – Appropriations Subcommittee  
Senator Elect Howard Walker (Chair)  
Senator Elect Bruce Caswell (VC)  
Senator Elect Hoon-Yung Hopgood

Education – Policy/Standing Committee  
Senator Elect Phil Pavlov (Chair)  
Senator Elect Judy Emmons (VC)  
Senator Elect Hoon-Yung Hopgood (Minority VC)

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

KATHLEEN N. STRAUS – PRESIDENT • JOHN C. AUSTIN – VICE PRESIDENT  
CAROLYN L. CURTIN – SECRETARY • MARIANNE YARED MCGUIRE – TREASURER  
NANCY DANHOF – NASBE DELEGATE • ELIZABETH W. BAUER  
CASANDRA E. ULBRICH • DANIEL VARNER

608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909  
www.michigan.gov/mde • (517) 373-3324

Background items of note: Senators-elect Pavlov, Hopgood, Emmons, Moolenaar, and Caswell have all served on or led education policy or appropriations subcommittees when they served previously in the House. Senator-elect Emmons served on local and intermediate school district (ISD) boards as well as on the Teacher Tenure Commission. Senator-elect Caswell was a teacher and a school superintendent. Senator-elect Moolenaar was a charter school administrator. Others here bring a wide variety of experience as a cardiologist, realtor, Ford employee, business owner, county commission, township supervisor, etc.

### **Federal Update – Odds and Ends**

From the news in Washington, D.C., and from national blogs and various association E-blasts, it appears that reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) may still occur but it is dependent on the new Republican Leadership in the House. The news on this changes quickly and I will let you know if the prevailing thoughts on timing change. Further, work on the Omnibus budget bill is stalled and instead Congress is working on a Continuing Resolution that provides funding at 2010 levels through March 4, 2011. That leaves the overall budget work for early next year as well.

If ESEA reauthorization is stalled, then there will be increased pressure on U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan to provide some relief via waivers to the existing requirements. It is unclear at this point if Secretary Duncan is welcome to that idea.

Two Michigan Congressional Delegation Members were named to new positions of committee Leadership that affect Education and related policy:

- U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow will chair the Senate Agriculture Committee.
- U.S. Representative Dave Camp will chair the House Ways and Means Committee.

I hope this information is helpful to you. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these or other legislative issues, please contact Lisa Hansknecht, Director of the Office of State and Federal Relations, 517-335-4913.