



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

November 12, 2013

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Martin Ackley, Director, Office of Public and Governmental Affairs

SUBJECT: State and Federal Legislative Update

**Common Core State Standards – House Concurrent Resolution 11**

On October 24, the full Senate amended HCR 11 and returned it to the House. On October 29, the full House concurred thus resolving the appropriations ban on the department funding the implementation of the Common Core State Standards.

**MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

In October, the House Education committee heard testimony on the following topics:

- EPI (epinephrine) pens: Testimony was heard in September on these bills (4352-4353) and they were reported and passed by the full House.
- Residential boarding schools for at-risk students: House Bill 4725 would allow public school academies to operate boarding schools.
- Educator Evaluation: Testimony was heard from Michigan Association of School Administrators and American Federation of Teachers – Michigan.
- School Safety: House Bill 4713 would provide reporting requirement for school safety drills. This bill was reported and passed by the full House. Testimony also was heard on House Bill 4269 that would create a statewide school safety commission.
- Eliminating EdYes! accreditation system: House Bill 4154
- Mandatory 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Retention based upon reading scores on state assessment: House Bill 5111
- A to F letter grade accountability system (HB 5112)

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

JOHN C. AUSTIN – PRESIDENT • CASANDRA E. ULBRICH – VICE PRESIDENT  
DANIEL VARNER – SECRETARY • RICHARD ZEILE – TREASURER  
MICHELLE FECTEAU – NASBE DELEGATE • LUPE RAMOS-MONTIGNY  
KATHLEEN N. STRAUS • EILEEN LAPPIN WEISER

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

The House Appropriations School Aid and Education subcommittees did not meet in October.

The House introduced the following education-related legislation in September:

- House Bill 5044 (Kelly) would prohibit collection or use of biometric data by public schools. This bill was referred to the House Education committee.
- House Bill 5128 (Yonker) would create a teacher retention and turnover report. This bill was referred to the House Education committee.
- House Bill 5129 (Townsend) would require staffing data in pupil enrollment reports. This bill was referred to the House Education committee.
- House Bill 5130 (Townsend) would add board of directors for a public school academy to section dealing with school board meeting requirements. This bill was referred to the House Education committee.
- House Bill 4982 (Schor) would create a year-round school district pilot program. This bill was referred to the House Appropriations committee.

### **MICHIGAN SENATE**

In October, the Senate Education Committee heard testimony on the following topics:

- Early Eligibility for kindergarten: Senate Bill 492 would permit school of choice students to enter kindergarten early. This bill was reported and passed by the full Senate.
- Defibrillators in schools: House Bill 4272 would allow schools to use a fire drill to instead drill for defibrillator use.
- Judgment collections against a school district: Senate Bills 442-443 would prevent the enforcement of a judgment for damages on a contract action against a school district or an intermediate school district (ISD) that specifically related to school operations. These bills were reported and passed by the full Senate.
- EPI (epinephrine) pens: House Bills 4352-4353 would allow physicians to prescribe and pharmacists to provide epi-pens to school boards; would require school boards to keep devices on hand at all times; and would limit liability of certain trained school employees who might use these devices. These bills were reported from the committee.

November 12, 2013

Page 3

The Senate introduced the following education-related legislation in September:

- Senate Bill 644 (Hildenbrand) would allow a strict discipline academy to enroll a student placed in a high security or medium security juvenile facility, mental health facility or child caring institution that is operated by a private agency. This bill was referred to Senate Education committee.

The Senate Appropriations School Aid and Education subcommittee did not meet in October.

### **FEDERAL UPDATE**

#### *Government Back in Business*

In mid-October, the shutdown (begun on Oct. 1) ceased when Congress voted on a temporary compromise set to expire on Jan. 15. The legislation provided enough borrowing authority to raise the debt ceiling until early February. Another part of the compromise was the creation of a new budget conference committee that has until Dec. 13 to create a new 10-year budget plan. A summary of the compromise can be found here: <http://www.appropriations.senate.gov/news.cfm?method=news.view&id=843aa5ea-dd97-416d-9ed4-ed66fd9a66f5>

The first meeting of the conference committee took place earlier this month and both sides appear to be optimistic that a compromise will be reached by Jan. 15.

#### *USED proposes grant priority for "Promise Zones"*

USED would give preference to competitive grant applications that fit within a set of goals outlined by the Administration. Those goals, an interdepartmental initiative known as the "Promise Zone," are designed to help revitalize high-poverty communities. The initiative would be jointly administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; the U.S. Department of Justice; the U.S. Department of Agriculture; and USED. The group hopes to designate 20 official geographic Promise Zones within the next four years. The proposal is only in the early stages and would likely require approval from Congress. The proposal is offered here: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-10-25/html/2013-25006.htm>.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding these or other legislative issues, please contact me at (517) 241-4395.