



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

December 12, 2013

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: State Board of Education

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

SUBJECT: State and Federal Legislative Update

**MDE ASSESSMENT OPTIONS REPORT**

House Concurrent Resolution 11 required the department to provide a written report on assessment options to the Legislature by Dec. 1. The report can be found here:

[http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Common\\_Core\\_Assessment\\_Option\\_Report\\_441322\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Common_Core_Assessment_Option_Report_441322_7.pdf).

**QUARTERLY DEFICIT DISTRICT REPORT**

State Superintendent and MDE staff provided a presentation on the quarterly deficit district report to the Joint House and Senate K-12/School Aid subcommittees on Dec. 12. The report can be found here:

[http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-6530\\_6605-106599--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-6530_6605-106599--,00.html)

**MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

In early December, the House Education committee heard testimony on and reported the following legislation:

- Eliminating EdYes! accreditation system: House Bill 4154
- Mandatory 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Retention and intervention based upon reading scores on state assessment: House Bills 5111 and 5144
- A to F letter grade accountability system: HB 5112
- Michigan Promise Zone Act revision: SB 312

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

**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](http://www.michigan.gov/mde) • (517) 373-3324

December 12, 2013

Page 2

### **MICHIGAN SENATE**

In early December, the Senate Education Committee heard testimony on and reported the following legislation:

- Michigan Merit Curriculum: Senate Bill 66

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

- Senate Bill 701 (Colbeck) would allow the display, reading or posting of certain United States historical documents. This bill was referred to Senate Education committee.
- Senate Bill 716 (Jansen) would require school districts and state public universities to have policies and practices regarding students' rights to religious freedoms.

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

### **FEDERAL UPDATE**

#### *Budget*

A bipartisan budget deal to keep the federal government up and running through Oct. 1, 2015 was announced earlier this month. The House and Senate are expected to vote on this before adjourning for the year.

The deal increases non-defense discretionary funding by \$63 million in FY 14 and FY 15 thus easing the effects of the sequester. The deal does not include significant changes to the tax code, but does include \$20 billion in deficit reduction.

More information can be found here:

<http://budget.house.gov/uploadedfiles/bba2013summary.pdf>.

#### *PISA*

Earlier this month, the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) results were released. Every three years, 15-year-olds around the world take the PISA, a test of reading, mathematics and science literacy. Important findings included no measurable change in U.S. average scores in any subject.

More information can be found here:

<http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pisa/pisa2012/>

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