



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
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SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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TO: State Board of Education
FROM: Michael Flanagan, Chair
SUBJECT: State and Federal Legislative Update

State

The Michigan Legislature reconvened the new session on January 14, 2009. Other than procedural work in the House, very little has occurred. The State of the State is scheduled for February 3, 2009, with the Executive budget presentation to the Legislature on February 12th.

Speaker Dillon announced committee assignments for the House Standing Committees. Representative Tim Melton (D-Pontiac) remains the chair of the House Education Committee, but there are many new faces assigned to that committee (see list below). Representative Cushingbury will continue as the chair of House Appropriations Committee; the subcommittee membership has yet to be announced. It is my understanding that there will be no changes to the Senate Education Committee or Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on K-12 Education and School Aid.

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Federal

Governor Granholm has a new staff person in her office in Washington, D.C.; Maggie Randolph is the Federal Legislative Assistant. Ms. Randolph, Niya Hardin and Lisa Hansknecht will be speaking regularly to keep in tune with what is going on in Michigan and in Washington D.C. related to education.

On the federal level, Carol Wolenberg has led the Department's work with the Governor's office to gather information related to President Barack Obama's proposed stimulus package, known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). A bill has been introduced in the House, and another is expected in the Senate.

The U.S. House version of the ARRA has a large education piece that includes

- \$14 billion for a new 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities program;**
- \$100 million for impact aid for school construction grants;**
- \$13 billion for Title I;**
- \$13 billion for Special Education;**
- \$1 billion for state and local education technology grants;**
- \$200 million for the proposed Teacher Incentive Fund;**
- \$66 million for homeless students; and**
- \$25 million for charters school credit enhancement to meet facility needs.**

The Senate has not provided a bill yet and the few details that have been released show an additional \$2 billion for school modernization and infrastructure.

There is much speculation at this point. MDE staff is gathering information, but this could change significantly over the next few weeks.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding these or other legislative issues, please contact Lisa Hansknecht, Legislative Director, at 517-335-4913.