



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT

October 2, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

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

SUBJECT: State and Federal Legislative Update

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

- Educator Evaluation: Dr. Deborah Ball of the Michigan Council on Educator Effectiveness presented on the MCEE's recommendations for educator evaluation. Sandi Jacobs of the National Council for Teacher Quality also provided testimony on this issue. This was a joint hearing with the Senate Education policy committee.
- 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.
- Common Core State Standards (CCSS): the committee adopted House Concurrent Resolution 11 that would permit MDE to continue implementing the CCSS and would require the department to submit a report on all available assessments for these standards by December 1, 2013.

The House Appropriations School Aid and the House Appropriations committee heard testimony and reported two supplemental bills:

- House Bill 4229: this bill made technical changes to the FY 14 budget passed in June.
- Senate Bill 126: this bill re-appropriates \$35.0 million of Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds for school improvement grants administered by MDE.

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

- House Bill 4955 (Foster) would prohibit a school district or non-public school from denying an eligible student's request to dual enroll. This bill was referred to the House Education committee.
- House Bill 4956 (Foster) would allow a public school board to request the Director of DTMB to allow them to purchase an unused school building if they could prove they would use it for instructional purposes. This bill was referred to the House Education committee.
- House Bill 4972 (McMillin) would prohibit the adoption and/or implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards. This bill was referred to the House Education committee.
- House Bill 4844 (Schor) would remove the requirement for Michigan public schools to start after Labor Day, but leaves the requirement that schools cannot be in session on the Friday before Labor Day. This bill was referred to the House Tourism committee.
- House Bill 4982 (Schor) would create a year-round school district pilot program. This bill was referred to the House Appropriations committee.

The full House also adopted HCR 11 to permit the department to expend funds on the continued implementation of the Common Core State Standards by a vote of 85-21.

MICHIGAN SENATE

In September, the Senate Education Committee held a joint hearing (mentioned above) with the House Education Committee on Educator Evaluations. The committee also held a hearing on the issue of educator evaluations in Port Huron.

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

- Senate Bill 492 (Caswell) would allow kindergarten early entry for school of choice students. This bill was referred to Senate Education committee.

FEDERAL UPDATE

Government Shut-down

On October 1, the federal government shut down. The United States Department of Education (USED) prepared a contingency plan and stated "the likely disruption to Department grant programs will be a potential delay in activities necessary to make competitive and formula grant awards later in the year." More information can be found at the following link:

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/furlough2013/index.html>.

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2014-2018 USED Strategic Plan

Last month, USED released its draft strategic plan for FY 2014-2018. The plan included the following priority goals for FY 2014:

- Increasing college graduation rates for 25- to 34-year-olds to 45.6 percent (currently 39.3 percent);
- Encouraging all 50 states to adopt college-and career-ready standards and aligned assessments;
- Supporting a minimum of 37 states to implement teacher and principal evaluations systems that include multiple measures of effectiveness;
- Decreasing the number of high schools with low (under 60 percent) graduation rates to 1,285 (currently over 1,400);
- Working with at least nine states to collect data on kindergarten readiness;
- Increasing the national high school graduation rate to 83 percent (currently 74.7 percent); and
- Ensuring that a minimum of 11 percent of new discretionary grant funds award additional points in the application process for grantees who can demonstrate evidence-based applications and plans.

To access the plan, visit: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/reports/strat/plan2014-18/draft-strategic-plan.pdf>.

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