



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

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GOVERNOR

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 5, 2015
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

On July 15, **HB 4781 EDUCATION (Kosowski)** was referred to the House Committee on Education. The bill requires internet filtering, technology utilization and digital citizenship policies and education in schools.

On July 15, **HB 4790 SCHOOL AID (McBroom)** was referred to the House Committee on Education. The bill expands counting of nonresident shared time pupils in membership to include kindergarten.

On July 21, **HB 4791 SOCIAL MEDIA POLICIES (Zemke)** was referred to the House Committee on Education. The bill requires school districts to adopt and implement policies regulating social media interaction between students and employees.

MICHIGAN SENATE

On June 16, **SB 358 TEACHER CERTIFICATES (Hansen)** was reported from the full Senate and referred to the House Committee on Appropriations. The bill revises requirements for professional teaching certificate and requirements for the alternative teaching certificate process.

On June 18, **SB 405 COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE (Schuitmaker)** was referred to the Senate Committee on Education. The bill modifies compulsory school attendance.

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On June 18, **SB 406 TRUANCY INTERVENTION (Schuitmaker)** was referred to the Senate Committee on Education. The bill creates an intervention program for truant or chronically absent students.

On June 18, **SB 407 TRUANCY REPORTING (Emmons)** was referred to the Senate Committee on Education. The bill revises requirements for schools to report suspension.

On June 18, **SB 408 TRUANCY JURISDICTION (Emmons)** was referred to the Senate Committee on Education. The bill revises court jurisdiction for truant and chronically absent students.

FEDERAL UPDATE

ESEA REAUTHORIZATION

Last month, the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate each passed their own Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) reauthorization bill. In the coming weeks, House and Senate designees will meet in conference committee to negotiate a compromise bill.

On July 23, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) announced that seven additional states have received approval for continued flexibility from provisions of ESEA. These recipients are implementing comprehensive, state-designed plans to ensure student success and a continued commitment to college- and career-readiness for every student. Tennessee has four more years of flexibility, through the 2018-19 school year; Alaska, Indiana, Maryland, New Jersey, and Oregon have three additional years of flexibility, through the 2017-18 school year; and, as requested, Utah has one more year of flexibility, through the 2015-16 school year

We still await word on Michigan's Flexibility waiver request.

RETHINKING SCHOOL DISCIPLINE

Recently, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) and Department of Justice hosted teams of superintendents, principals, and teachers from across the country for "Rethink Discipline," a day-long conference at the White House on creating positive school climates and implementing effective discipline practices. The conference was designed to advance the national conversation about reducing unnecessary out-of-school suspensions and expulsions and replacing these practices with positive alternatives that keep students in school and engaged in learning.

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On July 27, the Justice Department launched the National Resource Center for School Justice Partnerships, which will serve as a training and technical assistance portal for juvenile courts, schools, law enforcement agencies, and others to support reform efforts at the local level. And, in the coming weeks and months, the U.S. Department of Education will use social media events, blogs, and other approaches to engage the field about new tools and resources to help communities.

The Michigan Department of Education is working cooperatively with bill sponsors of **Senate Bills 405-408** (Truancy Package) as the legislation moves through the legislative process.

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