



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 30, 2016
TO: State Board of Education
FROM: Martin Ackley, Office of Public and Governmental Affairs
SUBJECT: State and Federal Legislative Update

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

On March 24, **HB 4822 THIRD GRADE READING (Price)** was returned from the Senate as a substitute S-6. The substitute S-6 was nonconcurrent by the House of Representatives. The House of Representatives named conferees regarding the matters of difference. The House conferees named were Speaker of the House Kevin Cotter and Representatives Amanda Price and Adam Zemke. The Senate has yet to name conferees. The bill requires attainment of minimum benchmark on state reading assessment for promotion of third grade students to next grade level and provides for early evaluation and intervention programs.

On March 24, **HB 5296 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION (Pscholka)** was ordered enrolled and signed by the Governor. The bill makes supplemental appropriations to the Department of Treasury in the amount of \$48.7 million for distressed public schools financial assistance.

On March 24, **HB 5385 DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS (Poleski)** was ordered enrolled and signed by the Governor. The bill provides for the Financial Review Commission for Detroit to be the Financial Review Commission for a "qualified school district".

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MICHIGAN SENATE

On March 23, **SB 710 DPS REFORM (HANSEN)** was referred to the Standing House Committee on Appropriations as a substitute S-2. The bill creates community districts.

On March 23, **SB 711 MICHIGAN FINANCIAL REVIEW COMMISSION (Hansen)** was referred to the Standing House Committee on Appropriations as a substitute S-4. The bill expands Michigan financial review commission to include certain school districts.

On March 23, **SB 819 DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOL REFORM (Hansen)** was referred to the Standing House Committee on Appropriations as a substitute S-1. The bill provides per-pupil allocation for community districts.

On March 23, **SB 820 DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS REFORM (Hansen)** was referred to the Standing House Committee on Appropriations as a substitute S-2. The bill includes superintendent or chairperson and chief executive officer within a community district of a qualified school district in exemptions from incompatible officers for member of a financial review commission.

On March 23, **SB 821 DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOL REFORM (Hansen)** was referred to the Standing House Committee on Appropriations. The bill modifies amount of loans made from surplus funds.

On March 23, **SB 822 DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS REFORM (Hansen)** was referred to the Standing House Committee on Appropriations as a substitute S-2. The bill modifies criteria for issuance of loans to emergency municipal loan act.

BUDGET BILLS

On March 23, **HB 5262 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (Potvin)** was reported from the House Subcommittee on MDE Appropriations and referred to the full Standing House Appropriations Committee. The bill provides for 2016-17 fiscal year budget for the Department of Education.

On March 22, **HB 5266 SCHOOL AID BUDGET (Kelly)** was reported from the House Subcommittee on K-12 Appropriations and referred to the full Standing House Appropriations Committee. The bill provides for fiscal year 2016-17 fiscal year budget for School Aid.

On March 23, **SB 786 EDUCATION BUDGET (Hansen)** was reported from the Senate Subcommittee on Education and referred to the full Standing Senate Appropriations Committee. The bill provides for fiscal year 2016-2017 appropriations for the Department of Education.

On March 23, **SB 796 SCHOOL AID BUDGET (Hansen)** was reported from the Senate Subcommittee on Education and referred to the full Standing Senate Appropriations Committee. The bill provides for fiscal year 2016-2017 appropriations for school aid fund.

FEDERAL UPDATE

SENATE CONFIRMATION

On March 14, the U.S. Senate confirmed John King as Secretary of Education. The full Senate vote came after the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee voted in favor of his confirmation. King has been serving as Acting Secretary of Education since January, after former Secretary Arne Duncan stepped down at the end of last year.

In response to the confirmation, President Obama issued the following statement:

"I applaud the Senate for confirming John King as Secretary of Education. In this role, John will continue to lead our efforts to work toward high-quality preschool for all, prepare our kids for college and a career, make college more affordable, and protect Americans from the burdens of student debt. John knows how education can transform a child's future. He's seen it in his own life. And, his experience, counsel, and leadership couldn't be more valuable to me and to our country as we work to open the doors of opportunity to all of America's children.

FUTURE OF EARLY LEARNING

In March, Secretary King and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Early Learning Libby Doggett participated in the first-ever South by Southwest Education Early Learning Summit. This event convened professionals, practitioners, and policymakers interested in cross-sector change to positively benefit young children and their families. Among the key topics of discussion: communities and systems, play and the young child, and entrepreneurship and early learning.

Also, building on the President's early learning and "Educate to Innovate" agendas, the White House, with the Departments of Education and Health and Human Services, seeks to advance a focus on STEM experiences in a child's earliest years by identifying research gaps, best practices, and technologies to support young children, parents and caregivers, educators, and communities. This spring, the Administration and Invest in US will hold an event at the White House on this important work and highlight external commitments along with federal resources and materials.

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