



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



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**TO:** State Board of Education

**FROM:** Michael P. Flanagan, Chairperson 

**SUBJECT:** State and Federal Legislative Update

### State Update

#### FY 2011 Budgets Update

The Legislature returned from summer break and continued work on the FY 2011 budgets. An agreement on the targets for the budgets was signed by the Governor and each legislative chamber's leader (Senator Majority Leader Michael Bishop and Speaker Andy Dillon) on September 8, 2010. That agreement is available online: [http://michigan.gov/documents/gov/FY\\_11\\_Target\\_Agreement\\_332154\\_7.pdf](http://michigan.gov/documents/gov/FY_11_Target_Agreement_332154_7.pdf).

In short, it lays out the big picture for the budget. The details within each of the budgets are expected to be finished in their respective conference committees in the next couple weeks. This agreement includes a shift of \$200 million in School Aid to community colleges in order to free up the same amount from the community colleges in GF/GP funding. This funding will be used to prevent large cuts in other budget areas. The legislation addressing that funding shift has now passed both the House and Senate.

Keep in mind that for education, the School Aid budget (SB 1163 - <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2010-SB-1163>) was signed and enacted already. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) budget is still in conference committee which likely will meet and report a bill in the next week. MDE budget: <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2010-SB-1154>. Once more information is available on the detail within the budget, it will be forwarded to you.

#### Longer School Year

There have been many news stories about the Governor supporting a longer school year for seat-time model schools. As with many initiatives, funding seems to be the obstacle as legislation mandating a longer school year (longer than the 1,098 hours with a minimum of 165 days that is currently required) would have to pay for that increase in school time.

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It is unclear if legislation will be developed from this or if there is even time left this session to move such legislation. However, there is certainly some discussion occurring.

Senate Bill 1402 (Senator John Gleason) - National Rifle Association Gun Safe® program encouraged. As an update to last month's report, Senate Bill 1402 was reported from the House Tourism, Natural Resources, and Outdoor Recreation Committee unanimously. It is expected to pass the House this fall. It is still unclear if the Governor will sign it. The MDE stands opposed to the bill. The summary is available in the report from August 10, 2010 ([http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/State\\_and\\_Federal\\_Legislative\\_Report\\_Aug\\_10\\_329762\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/State_and_Federal_Legislative_Report_Aug_10_329762_7.pdf)).

Senate Bill 1014 (Senator Michael Prusi) – Allows noncertified teachers for certain Native American tribal language/culture classes. Senate Bill 1014 would allow noncertified teachers to teach Native American tribal language and culture as there are currently no certification programs for such teachers. The teacher must show mastery of the language prior to teaching. This is essentially a bill to assist the Native American tribal communities to keep their language alive by allowing the language to be taught in school for credit. This bill had no opposition and was supported by MDE, the Michigan Education Association (MEA), the Hannahville Indian Community, the Gun Lake Tribe, the Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, and the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. The legislation passed the Senate unanimously and the House Education Committee is expected to take the bill up shortly.

### **Federal Update** Education Jobs Bill

Congress acted on the Education Jobs Fund. The Education Jobs Fund (Ed Jobs) program is a new federal program that provides assistance to states to save or create education jobs for the 2010-2011 school year. Jobs funded under this program include those that provide educational and related services for early childhood, elementary, and secondary education. Michigan will receive \$318 million. The Governor submitted the application for funding September 8, 2010. Governor Granholm had the choice to apply for the funds to be distributed in the same manner as Title I, or to distribute the funding via the state's primary and secondary education formula as identified in the state's application for the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund. The Governor chose the state's primary and secondary education formula. Funding is expected within two weeks. For further information, there is a helpful question and answer piece by the U.S. Department of Education available online: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/educationjobsfund/governors-ed-jobs-guidance-final-8-13-10.doc>

I hope this information is helpful to you. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these or other legislative issues, please contact Lisa Hansknecht, Director of the Office of State and Federal Relations, 517-335-4913.