



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

August 6, 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

The House Education committee did not meet in the month of July however the House Education Subcommittee on the Common Core Standards met twice:

- July 16 – Testimony was provided on history of standards and the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) from a national point of view by Michael Cohen of Achieve. State Superintendent Flanagan and staff from the department testified on the implementation of the CCSS in Michigan.
- July 31 – Testimony was provided in opposition to the CCSS by Joy Pullman of Heartland Institute and Dr. Larry Arnn of Hillsdale College. Dr. William Schmidt of Michigan State University testified in support and Michael McShane of the American Enterprise Institute provided neutral testimony.

Two joint hearings of the House Appropriations School Aid and MDE subcommittees took place in July:

- July 16 – Topic: Adult Education. Testimony was provided by Rep. Tim Kelly,
- July 31 – Topic: Consolidation. The State Superintendent was invited to discuss his consolidation plan. Also testifying that day was MAISA and MASA.

The House did not hold session in July, therefore no new education legislation was introduced.

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MICHIGAN SENATE

The Senate Education Committee did not meet in the month of July.

The full Senate did not act on any education legislation in July.

FEDERAL UPDATE

ESEA Reauthorization

An ESEA reauthorization bill – The Student Success Act, H.R. 5 – sponsored by Representative John Kline (R-MN) was passed by Congress on July 19 by a vote of 221-207. All Democrats and 12 Republicans voted against the bill. More information can be found here:

<http://edworkforce.house.gov/studentsuccessact/default.aspx>.

It is expected that the House bill will not be heard in the Senate where Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) has put forth his own reauthorization proposal. Harkin is the chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. His plan can be found here:

<http://www.help.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/?id=e561493c-1cc4-46ba-8e8d-b427b82891be&groups=Chair>.

Student Loan Certainty Act

The Senate and House have passed the Student Loan Certainty Act (H.R. 1911). The bill, expected to be signed by the President shortly, will tie loan interest rates to the 10-year Treasury note plus 2.05% and sets caps for undergraduate, graduate and parent loans. More information can be found here: <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/113/hr1911/text>.

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