



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

April 23, 2007

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael Flanagan, Chair 

SUBJECT: Legislative Update

OVERALL BUDGET UPDATE

Per my previous report of April 18, 2007 the Governor's second Executive Order was adopted by both the House and the Senate. The House and the Senate have now each passed their own versions of budget cuts (albeit through the same bills – SBs 220 and 221). The House version cut \$62,800 from the Department of Education through budgetary savings. The Senate version cut \$85,400 total from two specific budget units (1/2 of that total from each): Central Support and the Superintendent's Office.

Additionally, the House cuts did NOT provide a per-pupil cut in School Aid (the Senate cut \$34 per pupil). The House did not include this because State Budget Director, Bob Emerson, recently announced that a proration is probably coming and that it will be \$90 – \$125 per pupil.

OVERALL LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

Given the tragic events at Virginia Tech University, the Senate held a hearing on university safety last week. Additionally, questions have been raised concerning the proposed elimination of School Aid Funds to provide for Security Mapping of schools (\$350,000). It is unclear if any other legislative activity will result.

SENATE ACTIVITY

SB 194

Senate Appropriations reported SB 194 unanimously. Senate Bill 194 would amend the Revised School Code to permit the use of state school aid funds for the education of individuals committed to a high or medium security juvenile facility operated by Department of Human Services (DHS). Use of state school aid funds to educate persons in DHS facilities is prohibited by language in Section 1311g (g) of the Revised School Code (MCL 380.1311g). In February 2006, the State Budget Office of the Department of Management and Budget identified the need for this legislative change in order to implement the proposed budget for 2007.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

KATHLEEN N. STRAUS – PRESIDENT • JOHN C. AUSTIN – VICE PRESIDENT
CAROLYN L. CURTIN – SECRETARY • MARIANNE YARED MCGUIRE – TREASURER
NANCY DANHOF – NASBE DELEGATE • ELIZABETH W. BAUER
REGINALD M. TURNER • CASANDRA E. ULBRICH

608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
www.michigan.gov/mde • (517) 373-3324

Childhood Obesity

Department staff recently testified before the Senate Health Policy Committee on the issue of child obesity in a joint presentation with the Department of Community Health. The discussion centered on what schools and departments currently do to address this issue. There are several bills addressing physical education, nutrition in schools, junk food in schools, etc., in both the House and Senate. The Senate Education Committee had this topical meeting to begin to lay out the issue before choosing a legislative direction.

HOUSE ACTIVITY

HB 4591

The House passed the teacher certification/teacher preparation program review fees bill (61-47 vote with Republican Representatives Nofs and Ball joining the Democrats in support). The original bill was amended to provide some assurance to several legislators and the Michigan Education Association (MEA) that the fee increases to teachers to pay for the new computer system would also provide for better service to the teachers using the system. Language was added laying out the benefits expected for those using the system (online renewal of professional teaching certificates; online credit card payment capability; a central registry that documents each teacher's professional development activities and completion of state board continuing education units; etc.).

Compulsory Attendance Requirements for Kindergarten and to age 18

The House Education Committee has been listening to testimony on the general topics of raising the dropout age and mandating kindergarten attendance. Jeremy Hughes testified before the Committee on the general issue of raising the dropout age and the related issues of alternative programming, the new curriculum, CTE, etc. Specific to the issue of kindergarten, the Chair of the Committee, Representative Tim Melton (D-Auburn Hills), has asked the Office of Early Education and Family Services to testify on the topic. Lindy Buch will be presenting information on the current requirements.

House Democrats are looking at various versions of bills to address both of these topics. At this time, it is unclear the direction they will choose to take.

HBs 4091 and 4162, and SB 107

As mentioned before, the House version of the anti-bullying bills passed the House recently. The House Bills have been referred to the Senate Education Committee. The Safe Schools Coalition is working to create their strategic plan for achieving Senate Action on the Anti-Bullying legislation.

HB 4592

Representative Tim Melton has held workgroups on his school services consolidation bill. This bill would provide authority to the Department of Education to oversee consolidation efforts of school services. It is my understanding that the MEA may be opposed to the bill. There were concerns raised that the bill may address privatization, school *district* consolidation or issues regarding Michigan Education Special Services Association. It is my understanding that none of these issues are addressed in this bill as it is specific to consolidation of school services. It is unknown when this bill will be scheduled before the House Education Committee.