



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

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GOVERNOR

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 25, 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 November 16, **HB 4390 (Tedder)** was signed by the Governor and assigned Public Act Number 186. The bill allows ½ credit of personal economics or financial literacy to satisfy economics credit required for Michigan Merit Curriculum.

On November 10, **HB 4493 (Kesto)** was referred to second reading on the House Floor. The bill provides for genocide education.

On November 3, **HB 5036 (McCready)** was referred to the House Committee on Education. The bill removes the requirement that funds be invested in financial institutions in the state.

On November 10, **SB 209 (Colbeck)** was referred to second reading on the House Floor. The bill encourages and requires instruction in certain United States historical information to be included on state testing.

On November 10, **SB 211 (Shirkey)** was referred to second reading on the House Floor. The bill prohibits censorship or restraint of instruction in certain American heritage documents.

On November 4, **SB 510 (Pavlov)** was referred to the House Committee on Education. The bill creates student online personal protection act and prohibits the disclosure or use of certain information.

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MICHIGAN SENATE

On November 10, **SB 103 (Pavlov)** was signed by the Governor and assigned Public Act Number 173. The bill revises performance evaluation requirements for teachers and school administrators.

FEDERAL UPDATE

BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS

Secretary Duncan announced 335 schools as 2015 National Blue Ribbon Schools. This program honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools where students perform at the highest levels or where progress is being made on closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. Chief State School Officers nominate public schools. The Council for American Private Education nominates private schools. All schools were honored at a ceremony in Washington, D.C., November 9 and 10. Schools from Michigan receiving the award were Brown Elementary, Bursley Elementary, Chestnut Hill Elementary, Eastover Elementary, Forest Grove Elementary, Gordon Elementary, James B. Angell Elementary, Novi Woods Elementary, Pattengill Elementary, Pine Knob Elementary, Salem Elementary, Wealthy Elementary and Wines Elementary.

NEXT GEN HIGH SCHOOLS

The White House hosted the first-ever Summit on Next Generation High Schools, welcoming students, educators, philanthropists, and entrepreneurs who are reinventing the high school experience to better empower students to seize opportunities in today's economy and expanding access to innovative science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) teaching and learning. The summit was on the heels of new data showcasing the collective impact of recent federal and local efforts to improve high schools. Figures released by the Alliance for Excellent Education, the America's Promise Alliance, Civic Enterprises, and the Everyone Graduates Center reveal a significant reduction in the percentage of students who do not complete high school on-time: from 1,015,946 students in 2008 to 744,193 students in 2012 – a 27% decrease in only four years.

To build on this record, the Administration announced several new resources and investments to support the redesign of high schools. Also, the Department announced an intent to award over \$20 million in federal grants through the Investing in Innovation (i3) program to support the reform of high schools that serve a high percentage of low-income students. This program supports organizations transforming education in communities across America by implementing innovative and proven strategies while building evidence of what works to address persistent challenges.

TRANSPARENCY AGENDA FOR ACCREDITATION

Accreditation serves as an important protection for both students and taxpayers by assuring the quality of the postsecondary education system. Since accreditation is a prerequisite for colleges' participation in federal student aid programs, it also plays a "gatekeeping" role in institutional access to the \$150 billion annual investment in federal student aid.

Recognition that accreditation needs reform has intensified in recent years as a result of the failure of the Corinthian/Heald schools while fully accredited, as well as recommendations from the bipartisan National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) in 2012 and 2015 and a report calling on the U.S. Department of Education to strengthen its oversight of schools and accreditors by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) in 2014.

To help ensure the public can have confidence in the current accreditation system, the Administration announced a series of executive actions to improve accreditors' and the USED's oversight activities and move toward a new focus on student outcomes and transparency. It also outlined a suite of legislative proposals to help guide Congressional action on improving and reforming accreditation.

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