



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

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GOVERNOR

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SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

March 1, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Lisa M. Hansknecht, Director, Office of State and Federal Relations

SUBJECT: State and Federal Legislative Update

STATE UPDATE

Parent Empowerment Education Reform Package

The Parental Empowerment Education Package still is awaiting action on the House Floor. It is unclear when/if it will move. This includes the cyber legislation as well as the dual enrollment and shared time bills.

Teacher Certification and Continuing Education Package

The House Education Committee held a hearing on a package of 4 bills that would affect teacher certification, continuing education, and professional development requirements.

One of the bills simply provides flexibility for the professional development provided by districts. HB 5393, introduced by Rep. O'Brien, requires 30 hours (instead of 5 days) of professional development to be provided by districts. It is the same amount of time, but by allowing for hours instead of whole block days, school districts can embed the professional development throughout the year with work with mentors, teacher teams, etc. Currently, districts often bring in a speaker for a day and teachers often have stated the events are less than helpful. MDE recommends support of this legislation.

The other three bills in House Education (HBs 4645, 5013, and 5241) run contrary to the State Board of Education's *Education Improvement and Reform Priorities - Recommendations to Governor Snyder and the Legislature*, and the Governor's Reinventing Education message. Tremendous work has been done to restructure how teacher certification works, streamline the continuing education process, and offer flexibility through alternative routes. In short the bills prohibit anything

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beyond the minimum level of certification and for any continuing education, in direct conflict with this work.

As you are aware, there currently are rules moving through the promulgation process that focus on teacher evaluations and performance and on continuing education being targeted toward that performance in support of teachers. The changes are contained in two rule packages. The first rule package is for administrative certification and alternative routes for administrators – this package has already been through the Office of Regulatory Reinvention (ORR) review process and was submitted to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) on February 13. JCAR has 15 session days in which to file an objection (March 15 is the last session day). The second rule package, which sets up master teachers, streamlines continuing education, and creates the 3-tier system, is at the Office of Regulatory Reinvention. We are waiting for ORR to send it to the Legislative Service Bureau (LSB) for final certification, at which time it too will go before JCAR for the 15-session-day clock to start. We are hopeful that ORR will move quickly so that the session clock can be completed before summer recess.

Obviously as the three-bill package is in conflict with the direction of the SBE/MDE goals and work, MDE recommends opposition of these bills.

Executive Budget Recommendation – FY 2013

The House and Senate K-12/MDE Appropriations Subcommittees have had several hearings that included presentations from MDE staff on specific programs that are new to them, initiatives that are proposed in the budget, and other topics related to proposals the Legislators are considering. These have included:

- An overview of the Office of Great Start and the Child Development and Care Program that was moved over to MDE from the Department of Human Services via Executive Order.
- Further information on the performance funding proposal that is in the Executive Recommended budget.
- An overview on pupil counting procedures, payments, and auditing from MDE and CEPI staff, as the members are considering increasing the number of counts.

Further presentations may occur as well.

Questions from legislators have indicated interest in a consolidated technology system for all the data required of school districts, an increase in the number of count days, a concern in general about the amount of work in auditing pupil counts, a concern about increasing the number of charter school office staff, and interest in the future of early education funding and programs with the creation of the Office of Great Start by Governor Snyder's Executive Order.

Continued support and contacts by State Board of Education Members to Subcommittee members in support of the MDE budget and the school aid initiatives in line with the SBE priorities recommendation related to performance funding is very helpful.

FEDERAL UPDATE

ESEA Reauthorization

Congressman Kline continues work on a mark-up of pieces of an Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) reauthorization. It is still unclear where this will go as Senator Harkin still indicates his intent to address reauthorization in whole and not in pieces.

ESEA Flexibility Waiver

The Michigan Department of Education submitted its ESEA Flexibility Waiver application. The initial step by the U.S. Education Department is ensuring all the necessary pieces are included. After such a review they will contact MDE with any questions or for clarification.

Based on what states experienced in the first round of waivers, we anticipate several back-and-forth discussions. No timeline has been shared for when the peer reviews will take place.

I hope this information is helpful to you. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these or other legislative issues, please feel free to contact me at 517-335-5310.