

STATE SCHOOL AID UPDATE

Michigan Department of Education



MARCH 2016

Vol. 24 No. 6

IMPORTANT INFORMATION RELATED TO SECTION 35A FUNDING

Allocations in the March payment for Early Literacy grants under Sections 35a(5) and 35a(6) of the State School Aid Act for Early Literacy Teacher Coaches, and Targeted Instruction have been inadvertently processed incorrectly. This led to the related allocations that appeared on the February State School Aid Financial Status Reports being zeroed out. The allocations for those districts receiving the funding for the first time in March were not affected. There was no intent to roll back the first round of allocations, and a correction will be applied to the April 2016 payment as the issue was detected after the March payment had been processed. This will restore the allocations and respective payments for those that were inadvertently zeroed out.

For district-specific information related to Section 35a please contact Sean Hennika at HennikaS1@Michigan.gov or 517-373-4231.

MARCH PAYMENT INFORMATION

The March state school aid payment is the sixth regular payment of the 2016 fiscal year. The payment will be electronically transferred to the districts' accounts on Monday, March 21, 2016.

Taxable value - The March payment continues to use the beginning 2015 tax roll non-homestead taxable value data, as provided by the county treasurers via the web based taxable valuation collection process. These data can be viewed by school district personnel on the Department's website. The URL is: <https://mdoe.state.mi.us/TaxableValue/>. To view your data, click on "Public Access," and then choose your district code and the appropriate tax year from the drop-down menus.

Pupil membership - October 2015 pupil count data (audited for most districts) and audited February 2015 pupil counts were used in the calculation of the blended membership count for the March payment used to calculate the **Section 20 Foundation** allowances.

Updated categoricals - The following categoricals were updated in the March payment although the updates may not have affected the allocation amounts for all districts. If the allocation amount for your district has changed and you have questions concerning that change, contact the consultants identified below:

- Court Placed Children – Section 24 (Dianne Easterling, Special Education, 517-241-1235, EasterlingD@Michigan.gov)
- Computer Adaptive Test Funding – Section 104d (Victor Bugni, Standards and Assessments, BugniV@Michigan.gov)
- Math Science Professional Development – Section 99, (Ruth Anne Hodges, Education Improvement and Innovation, 517-241-2219, HodgesR3@Michigan.gov)

LABOR DAY START WAIVERS

Pursuant to Section 1284b of the Revised School Code (MCL 380.1284b), public schools in the state of Michigan are barred from starting school before Labor Day (the first Monday in September). Exceptions are granted for schools or programs that are bona fide year-round schools or programs established for educational reasons. Bona fide year-round schools or programs may apply for a waiver from this requirement. According to the statute, the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall establish standards for determining a bona fide year-round school or program and shall grant the waiver to those schools or programs that meet the standards established by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Currently, the Department has the following standards for determining a bona fide year-round school or program.

- A school or program that operates according to a school calendar that includes a summer break no greater than six weeks in length.

- A school or program that operates on the same calendar as a college or university and is affiliated with the college or university through a program such as a middle college (schools that simply have dually enrolled pupils do not qualify under this standard).
- A persistently low achieving school that has selected an intervention model that requires increased learning time as a condition of reform.

Other applications will be considered if they include such things as the goals and objectives of the school/program, the measures that will be considered to gauge the success of meeting the goals/objectives, and an explanation of how the waiver will assist in efforts to mitigate summer learning loss. Applicants requesting the waiver should use the form located at the following address:

<https://goo.gl/pjDdIX>

Questions related to the waiver should be directed to Brian Ciloski, State Aid and School Finance, 517-373-3352, or CiloskiB@Michigan.gov or Brian Barber, Education Improvement and Innovation, 517-335-3005 or BarberB2@Michigan.gov.

FY 2015 SCHOOL AID SHORT TERM ADJUSTMENTS

The Department has nearly completed its review of the 2014-2015 Days and Hours of Instruction Reports. As a result, some districts will be receiving school aid adjustments for that year based on not meeting the required number of days or hours of instruction. Districts will be notified of the pending adjustments by March 30, 2016. The adjustments will be processed in the April payment. They will appear on the April State Aid Financial Status Report in the "Prior Year Adjustment" section on a line labeled "2015 Short Term." If you have any questions or concerns related to these adjustments, please contact Brian Ciloski, 517-373-3352, or CiloskiB@Michigan.gov.

BUDGET TRANSPARENCY REMINDERS

- All schools must use the standard budget transparency icon found on the Department's website by clicking [here](#). It must measure at least 150 x 150 pixels and be immediately visible once your Main Home Page has loaded.
- March 1 was the deadline for updating Employee Compensation Information with 2015 calendar year data. A description and cost for each fringe benefit must be disclosed. These descriptions do not meet the requirements: "benefits," "other," and "other benefits."
- Board approved budgets and amendments must be detailed at the function level and include beginning and ending General Fund balances.
- The following data elements are based on the most current data available, not previous fiscal year data: Bargaining Agreements, Health Care Plans, Medical Benefit Plan Bids, Procurement Policy, Expense Reimbursement Policy, Deficit Elimination Plan, and Credit Card Information.

Questions related to Budget Transparency may be directed to Chad Urchike at UrchikeC1@Michigan.gov or 517-335-1261.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- The 4th quarterly count date for **Adult Education** program participants is the 4th Wednesday in April, **April 27, 2016**.
- **March 23, 2016**, is the deadline for ISDs to submit to the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) the **Audited FTE Counts** for the October 7, 2015, pupil membership count day.
- February 10 was the FY 2016 **Supplemental count** date. The Michigan Student Data System (MSDS) records for the Supplemental count date were due to the CEPI by **March 16, 2016**, and are to be certified by **March 23, 2016**.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- The proration factor for Section 31a - At Risk funding is \$186.1712350073 per pupil.
- The Headlee Obligation for Data Collection funds are being paid at a rate of \$25.1817498703 per pupil.
- The Section 22d(4) funds are being paid out at \$44.1714394227.

*Do you have questions about the information appearing in this UPDATE? Call the consultants identified above or **Dan Hanrahan, Director, State Aid and School Finance, MDE**, phone: **517-335-0521**, fax: **517-241-0196**, e-mail: HanrahanD@Michigan.gov