

FEBRUARY PAYMENT INFORMATION

The payment will be electronically transferred to districts' accounts on Monday, February 22, 2021.

MPSERS RETIREMENT FUNDS

Section 147a(2) and 147e payments include actual amounts reported to the Office of Retirement Services (ORS) through December 31, 2020 and will continue to be paid on a quarterly basis in the November, February, May, and August payments.

2021 SECTION 51F REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

The current reimbursement percentage is 2.2853478% and projected to remain stable.

FEBRUARY SPECIAL EDUCATION COST DATA

When Special Education cost data was updated for the February payment, the 2019-20 costs were correctly used to update the prior year, but the current year was inadvertently updated with 2018-19 cost data. This will be corrected in the March 2021 payment.

SECTION 25J FUNDING

The February 2021 payment carries the first payment to intermediate school districts under section 25j. These funds are to be used to support districts that offered in-person instruction at the beginning of the 2019-2020 fiscal year but that began the 2020-2021 fiscal year utilizing a virtual-only mode of instruction or a hybrid of in-person and a virtual mode of instruction. Funds are to be used to meet the unique needs of students with an individualized education program, to address increased numbers of chronically absent pupils, as applicable, or to offer childcare solutions for elementary-aged students.

SUPPLEMENTAL COUNT DAY

The second count date of the school year was February 10, 2021. As a courtesy to the field, the Department would like to remind all districts that schools must be open and scheduled for regular instruction on each count day prescribed in legislation. Only a district that is not in session on that day due to conditions not within the control of school authorities will be allowed to use the immediately following day on which the district is in session for count purposes, and only if the district requested and received written approval from the Department for the alternate count date. If your district was closed on count day due to unforeseen conditions, please use the following form to request an alternate count date: <https://fs10.formsite.com/SASF/form8/index.html>.

SECTION 101 – SCHOOL DAY CANCELLATIONS AND FORGIVEN TIME

Section 101 of the State School Aid Act (MCL 388.1701) remains the same as FY 2020 with regard to the cancellation of instructional time. The language continues to grant districts six (6) days and/or the equivalent number of hours to use toward cancellations that occur due to conditions beyond the control of school authorities, commonly referred to as "forgiven time" or "snow days." Language remains that grants the State Superintendent the authority to grant up to three (3) additional days or equivalent hours cancelled as instruction, provided the cancellation is due to unusual and extenuating circumstances resulting from conditions not within the control of school authorities. For 2020-21, however, new language in Section 101(13) provides greater flexibility around determining how much instructional time was scheduled and provided by basing those calculations on instructional content rather than a traditional calendar and bell schedule. Due to this, MDE believes that few districts, if any, will need to use forgiven time during the 2020-21 school year unless the amount of content that the scheduled courses would deliver was altered by a cancellation.

A district that wishes to request additional forgiven time must provide strong rationale supporting why these days cannot be rescheduled before the end of the school year. Applications for additional forgiven time will only be accepted through the [online form](#) beginning February 24, 2021. Questions regarding this item should be directed to Jessica Beagle at BeagleJ1@Michigan.gov.

BUDGET TRANSPARENCY REMINDERS

March 1 is the deadline for updating Employee Compensation Information with 2020 calendar year data. A description and cost for each fringe benefit must be disclosed. Current year budgets/amendments must be posted within 15 days of board approval. Please send budget transparency questions to Chad Urchike at UrchikeC1@michigan.gov or 517-335-1261.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- March 24, 2021 is the deadline for ISDs to submit to the Center for Educational Performance and Information the Audited FTE Counts for the October 7, 2020 Pupil Membership Count Day.
- February 10 was the FY 2021 Supplemental count date. The Michigan Student Data System (MSDS) records for the Supplemental count date are due to the Center by March 17, 2021 but may be recertified until March 24, 2021.
- The proration factor for Section 31a – At Risk funding is 78.59350004%.
- The Section 22d(4) funds are being paid at \$52.3244324107 per pupil.
- The Headlee Obligation for Data Collection funds are being paid at a rate of \$25.9956681936 per pupil.

*Do you have questions about the information appearing in this UPDATE? Call the consultants identified above or **Phil Boone, State Aid and School Finance, MDE**, cell phone: **517-899-0796**, fax: **517-241-0196**, e-mail: BooneP2@Michigan.gov