

RICK SNYDER GOVERNOR MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

February 8, 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 following bills were reported from House Education Committee and are awaiting action on the House Floor.

CYBER LEGISLATION

House Education Committee reported Senate Bill 619 (H-3) to the House floor (vote: 10 yeas – 8 nays – 1 pass). The bill would raise the cap on cyber charter schools considerably. Currently the law provides for two cyber schools with enrollment capped at 1000 students with a predominant focus on students who have dropped-out.

- The new substitute eliminates the cap of two schools and creates a university authorized cap of 15 cyber contracts until December 31, 2013, and then to 30 after that date.
 - NOTE: there is a question as to whether each cyber contract could have more than one school.
- In addition to that, each local district or intermediate school district (ISD), or combination of any two entities also may authorize one contract.
- A cyber school enrollment is capped at ½ the membership of the largest district in their final 11-12 audited count. If passed, that would mean ½ of Detroit Public Schools membership or around 32,000 pupils.
 - If each contract only creates one school, the total population possible is approximately 480,000 pupils under the initial cap of 15 contracts.
- The focus on serving urban and at-risk student populations is eliminated.
- Language was added stating that an entity applying for a contract must demonstrate experience delivering a quality education program that improves pupil achievement.

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- The authorizing body must refer to the standards for quality online learning established by the National Association of Charter School Authorizers or other similar nationally recognized standards for quality online learning.
- Finally, a cyber school may make available to other public schools for purchase any of the course offerings that the cyber school offers to its own pupils.

SHARED TIME LEGISLATION

Senate Bill 621 was reported by House Education as well (vote: 12-3-4). This bill amends the School Aid Act determining when a public school can count a nonpublic or home school student for pupil membership purposes. The H-2 version of the bill returns some language from current law that was removed in the Senate.

If a nonpublic school has submitted a request to their local school district to provide courses and the local district does not agree to provide all or some instruction requested by May 1 immediately preceding the school year, or if the request is submitted after March 1 immediately preceding the school year, instruction can be provided by another eligible district.

A nonpublic school is not required to submit more than 1 request for instruction to their local district. In addition, the nonpublic does not have to submit additional requests for the district to provide additional instruction beyond what was initially requested, before the nonpublic may have the instruction provided by another eligible district.

The following criteria must be met for a student to be counted:

- The private school is registered with the MDE and meets all state reporting requirements.
- Instruction occurs during the regular school day.
- Instruction must be provided by a certified teacher from the district or ISD. Current law only requires that an employee of the district provide instruction.
- The curriculum is also available to full-time pupils in the district or charter school.
- The courses offered are restricted to non-essential elective courses for students in grades 1 to 12.

Under the bill, other eligible districts is defined to include those districts that are within the same ISD as the district in which the nonpublic school is located or an ISD that is contiguous to that ISD. Also, a charter school that is located in the same district as the nonpublic school may provide instruction as an eligible district.

DUAL ENROLLMENT LEGISLATION

Senate Bills 622 and 623 passed House Education (vote: 13-1-5) as well. These would amend the Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act and the Career and Technical Education Act, respectively. The bills would expand the guidelines for students eligible to participate in dual enrollment programs.

The bills would do the following:

- Remove the requirement that a student achieve a qualifying score in a subject area, before being allowed to enroll in a course of that subject area at the postsecondary institution.
- Remove the requirement that a student be in at least grade 11 to participate in dual enrollment.
- Include in the definition of "eligible student" a student enrolled in a state approved nonpublic school.
- Stipulates that an eligible course is one offered for postsecondary credit.
- Limit the number of courses to 10, unless the student pays for the class on their own.
- Allow a student to take not more than two eligible courses per academic year for the student's first, second, or third academic year of dual enrollment, and not more than four courses during the student's fourth academic year of dual enrollment.
- If a student first enrolls in a dual enrollment program in grade 10, the student is not allowed to enroll in more than 2 courses the first academic year and not more than 4 courses in each of the final two academic years.
- If a student first enrolls in a dual enrollment program in grade 11or 12, the student is not allowed to enroll in more than 6 courses during those academic years.
- Include a tuition limit for community colleges in the definition of "eligible charges," such that the tuition rate used to determine eligible charges is the tuition rate for residents of the community college district regardless of the residency status of the eligible student.

The Committee also reported Senate Bills 709 and 710 (vote: 15-3-1) which would amend the Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act and the Career and Technical Education Act to allow tuition payments to be made for non-public students to participate in a dual enrollment program at a postsecondary institution.

The bills would do the following:

- Expand provisions for dual enrollment in postsecondary institutions to high school students in state-approved nonpublic schools without the need to be enrolled in one course at a public school.
- Require the Department of Treasury to pay the tuition for a postsecondary course taken by a nonpublic school student based on a prorated percentage of the statewide pupil-weighted average foundation allowance.
- Extend repayment provisions to nonpublic school students who did not complete an eligible course.
- Require repayment by a public or nonpublic student who enrolled in an eligible course for postsecondary credit only and did not successfully complete it.
- Allow a dually enrolled nonpublic school student to receive only postsecondary credit for a course, unless it would be considered a "nonessential elective course."

- Require each career and technical program that receives funding under this program to annually report to the Department of Education the following:
 - The number of eligible students enrolled.
 - The total number of eligible courses completed.
 - The total number of eligible courses completed that granted a postsecondary credit for the course.
 - The total number of eligible courses completed that didn't grant a postsecondary credit for the course.
- Under the bills, for a dually enrolled public school student, the payment to a
 postsecondary institution would have to be based on a prorated percentage
 of the statewide pupil-weighted average foundation allowance.

It is important to know the expanded opportunities outlined in the bills originally included home schooled students, but the home-schooled community requested that they not be included in the legislation.

Language was included to ensure the number of courses allowable per academic year did not infringe on the courses and curriculum for early and middle college programs.

At the January State Board of Education Legislative Committee, the Committee approved a recommendation to the full Board to adopt the following statement regarding dual enrollment:

<u>Dual enrollment opportunities for all students</u> – We strongly support enhanced early college course taking and credit earning for all students, as a proven means to improve graduation rates, college attendance rates, and student engagement for both at-risk and high-achieving students. We support necessary measures to ensure the success of dual enrollment that include:

- widening eligibility to all high school students,
- ensuring post-secondary institutions participate, establish enrollment criteria in collaboration with K-12 education, and accept credit for dual enrolled courses, and
- creating incentives for postsecondary institutions to form more early and middle colleges.

<u>Finance structures for dual-enrollment</u> – that create incentives for K-12 schools and postsecondary institutions to participate:

 We recommend further that the means of paying for dual enrollment be changed to end the current disincentive for K-12 schools to facilitate student participation creating a positive incentive for K-12 schools and postsecondary institutions to help more students participate in dual enrollment courses.

<u>Executive Budget Recommendation - FY 2013</u>

Governor Snyder and Budget Director Nixon presented the Executive Recommended budget for FY 2012-13. The education portions of the budget are highlighted here and more detailed information is attached.

The Governor's Michigan Department of Education (MDE) budget for FY 2013 includes an increase of \$3.7 million in GF/GP and an increase of \$4.4 million in federal funds. The overall budget increases \$6.7 million. Some of this funding is a switch and shift of some federal dollars previously located in the School Aid budget, but repurposed and shifted here to assist with low performing districts.

There are several technical adjustments included related to caseload adjustments and economic adjustments. In terms of program enhancements, the FY 2013 budget includes the following:

- \$125,000 for 1 FTE related to the performance-based funding initiative in the School Aid budget,
- \$760,000 for 1 FTE and funds to support low performing schools (this is for schools on the Persistently Lowest Achieving (PLA) Schools list that do not receive federal School Improvement Grant (SIG) funding),
- Given the increase in the charter school cap, \$500,000 was added to address staffing needs (2 FTEs directly in the charter school office and 2 FTEs in Field Services),
- \$800,000 is added for the Michigan eLibrary database,
- \$2 million in GF/GP is added for the College Access Network Grant Program to replace federal funding that ended, and
- \$1.9 million is added in support for early childhood programs.

The FY 2014 planning budget is simply a continuation budget.

In the Governor's School Aid budget for FY 2013, overall funding increases by \$306.9 million or 2.5%. The budget includes the following:

- The per pupil foundation allowances remain at FY 2012 levels.
- \$70 million is included for performance based funding based on growth in performance levels in math and reading in grades 3-8 and in all subjects for high school. This could be as much as \$100 per pupil.
- \$120 million is included for best practices where school districts must meet 5 of the following 6 best practices:
 - Districts participate in schools of choice programs.
 - Districts monitor student growth at least twice annually and report the results to parents.
 - Districts offer dual enrollment and other opportunities for earning college credits.
 - o Districts offer online learning opportunities.
 - o Districts are the policy holder for health care services benefits.
 - Districts provide a dashboard to parents and members of the community.
- \$10 million is provided for a one-time competitive grant to help defray the transition costs of consolidating operations or services between two or more districts OR the consolidation of districts and ISDs.

- ISD funding remains at \$62.1 million, but 5% of that is tied to meeting 4 of 5 best practices as well as:
 - ISD enters into an agreement with the MDE to develop a service consolidation plan.
 - ISDs work in consortium to develop system requirements and details specs for end-to-end IT solutions that could be leveraged statewide for student management systems for general and special education and for business services.
 - ISD agrees to develop a plan in FY 13 to be implemented by constituent districts in FY 14 to integrate technology into the classroom and prepare teachers to use digital technology.
 - ISD competitively bids on provisions of pupil transportation, food service, custodial, or other noninstructional services provided to constituent districts of at least \$50,000.
 - ISD creates and hosts a "citizens" dashboard.
- \$1.75 million is added to fund the training of building principals on conducting educator evaluations in a fair and consistent manner.
- The Michigan Virtual University is redefined with the creation of a new Center for Online Learning, Research and Innovation as the statewide leader in online learning. Included in this is \$500,000 for a pilot program where funding will be provided on student performance rather than on instructional seat-time. The total \$4.4 million is a continuation, but this year funded with GF/GP as the federal funding ended.
- Within the School Aid budget is a supplemental for the current fiscal year (FY 12) to address some cost adjustments and additional spending authority, as well as the inclusion of \$12.5 million in spending for kindergarten status assessments and a quality rating system for early childhood providers.

FEDERAL UPDATE

ESEA Reauthorization

Congressman Kline had a press event unveiling his new education bills to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Kline, chairman of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, authored the bills which seek to bring more local control, more parent involvement, and less federal intrusion to the nation's schools. At the event, Congressman Kline described how the bills will give states the authority to define their own accountability systems, eliminate a highly contested provision of ESEA that dictates teacher eligibility, and offer states more flexibility to spend their federal dollars. There is a one page summary of his bills available online here.

ESEA Flexibility Waiver

The U.S. Department of Education (USED) announced that in the first round of the ESEA flexibility waivers, 10 of the 11 applications were approved. In its announcement, the USED said that in exchange for this new flexibility, the approved states agreed to raise academic standards, improve accountability, and

undertake essential reforms to boost teacher effectiveness. Further, for the one state that has yet to be approved, New Mexico, the USED indicated it is still working with that state. This is consistent with their messaging that they want to approve all and work with states to get to "yes."

As you know, the next deadline for waiver applications is February 21, 2012. Several more states will be submitting applications and then, as in the first round, negotiations with the USED begin.

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.



STATE BUDGET OFFICE Presented February 9, 2012

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FY 2013 & 2014 EXECUTIVE BUDGET--HIGHLIGHTS

	FY2012	FY2013				FY2014
Total Funding:	Enacted	$\underline{\mathbf{Exec}\ \mathbf{Rec}}$:	<u>Difference</u>		Exec Rec
Federal	\$ 242,080,900	\$ 246,465,200	\$	4,384,300	\$	247,526,200
Local	\$ 7,159,200	\$ 5,543,900	\$	(1,615,300)	\$	5,589,900
Private	\$ 3,133,400	\$ 2,828,700	\$	(304,700)	\$	2,828,700
State Restricted	\$ 7,166,300	\$ 7,561,700	\$	395,400	\$	7,692,500
GF/GP	\$ 64,059,000	<u>\$ 67,929,100</u>	\$	3,870,100	\$	68,182,400
Total	\$ 323,598,800	\$ 330,328,600	\$	6,729,800	\$	331,819,700
FY2013 ADJUSTMENTS:				GROSS	GF/GP	
Technical Adjus	stments		\$	(1,158,300)	\$	(2,290,100)
Maintenance of the State Aid Management System – 1 FTE in DTMB			\$	125,000	\$	125,000
	d adjustment (cons	- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	\$	(3,000,000)	\$	(3,000,000)
_		lind reorganization	\$	(2,088,000)	\$	0
Shift CEPI federa performing dis	ll funding to MDE t	to help with low	\$	1,849,000	\$	0
_		efits	\$	2,961,000	\$	584,900
FY 2012 other post-employment benefits Eliminate Fay Hall tenant rent			\$	(261,000)	\$	001,000
Economic adjustments for child development IDG w/ DHS			\$	(655,300)	\$	0
Other technical adjustments			\$	(89,000)	\$	0
Program Enhan	icements		\$	4,085,000	\$	5,429,700
_	ed funding initiative	e	\$	125,000	\$	125,000
Support for low performing schools		\$	760,000	\$	760,000	
Support for additional charter schools		\$	500,000	\$	500,000	
Additional funding for Michigan eLibrary database			\$	800,000	\$	800,000
College Access Network Grant Program (replacing federal funding)			\$	0	\$	2,000,000
Support for early childhood programs			\$	1,900,000	\$	1,244,700
Economic Adjustments			\$	3,803,100	\$	730,500
TOTAL	L FY2013 ADJUS'	TMENTS:	\$	6,729,800	\$	3,870,100
FY2014 ADJUSTMENTS:						
Technical Adjus	stment		\$	1,491,100	<u>\$</u>	253,300
Active and retiree	e insurance and per	nsion adjustment	\$	1,491,100	\$	253,300
TOTAL FY2014 ADJUSTMENTS:			\$	1,491,100	\$	253,300



STATE BUDGET OFFICE

SCHOOL AID HIGHLIGHTS EXECUTIVE BUDGET FISCAL YEARS 2013 AND 2014

FEBRUARY 9, 2012

FY2013 K-12 School Aid Executive Budget

K-12 Funding (in millions)	FY2013	FY2014
School Aid Fund Revenue	\$ 10,786.0	\$ 10,884.0
General Fund	\$ 200.0	\$ 18.6
Federal Funds	<u>\$ 1,701.0</u>	\$ 1,701.0
Total Appropriations	\$ 12,687.0	\$ 12,603.6
Local Revenue	\$ 3,390.0	\$ 3,410.0
Total State/Local/Federal	\$ 16,077.0	\$ 16,013.6

Consensus Pupils:

FY2012 - 1,552,800

FY2013 – 1,542,900, a decrease of 9,900 pupils from FY2012

FY2014 – 1,536,000, a decrease of 6,900 from FY2013

Basic Operations

• Total funding for the **per-pupil foundation allowance** is \$8.7 billion. Foundation allowances for each district are protected at the same level as FY2012.

Per-Pupil Foundation Allowance History				
	<u>Minimum</u>	$\underline{\mathbf{Basic}}$	<u>Maximum</u>	
FY2012	\$6,846	\$8,019	\$8,019	
FY2013	\$6,846	\$8,019	\$8,019	
FY2014	\$6,846	\$8,019	\$8,019	

- Consistent with current law, beginning in FY2013, **kindergarten FTE** will be determined as other grade-level FTE are calculated 1,098 hours generate a full FTE. Savings of \$50 million are built into foundation allowance cost estimates from this change.
- The FY2013 budget recognizes the **Education Achievement System**, a statewide school district created to help transform Michigan's lowest performing schools. The Education Achievement System will receive a per pupil foundation allowance equal to the foundation allowance of the district in which an achievement school is located, as well as other state categorical and federal funds to which other districts are entitled.
- Funding of \$190 million (\$140 million is one-time) is provided for incentive payments to districts that meet separate **performance-based funding** and **best practices** criteria.

Under the **performance-based funding** component (\$70 million), qualifying districts may receive funding for meeting certain academic achievement thresholds determined by the department that are based on growth in individual student scores. The amount of the incentive payment would be determined based on three criteria:

- o Proficiency growth in mathematics for grades 3 to 8.
- o Proficiency growth in reading for grades 3 to 8.
- o Proficiency growth over a 4-year period in all subject areas for high school students (mathematics, reading, science, social studies and writing).

Funds remaining after performance-based payments are calculated will be distributed to districts that meet **best practices** (\$120 million), where districts will be required to meet 5 of the following 6 criteria in order to be eligible for best practices funding:

- 1. Districts participate in schools of choice programs.
- 2. Districts monitor student growth at least twice annually and report the results to parents.
- 3. Districts offer dual enrollment and other opportunities for postsecondary coursework.
- 4. Districts offer online learning opportunities.
- 5. Districts are the policy holder for health care services benefits.
- 6. Districts provide a dashboard to parents and members of the community.
- A total of \$10 million in one-time **competitive assistance grants** is available to help defray the transition costs associated with the consolidation of operations or services between two or more districts or the consolidation of districts or intermediate districts.
- **ISD Operations** funding remains at \$62.1 million; however, 5% (\$3.1 million) of each ISDs allocation is tied to meeting 4 of 5 best practices criteria.
 - 1. ISD enters into agreement with the department to develop a service consolidation plan.
 - 2. ISDs work in a consortium to develop system requirements and detailed specifications for end-to-end IT solutions that could be leveraged statewide for student management systems for general and special education and business services.
 - 3. ISD agrees to develop a plan in FY2013 to be implemented by constituent districts in FY2014 to integrate technology into the classroom and prepare teachers to use digital technology.
 - 4. ISDs obtain competitive bids on the provision of pupil transportation, food service, custodial or other noninstructional services provided to constituent districts of at least \$50,000.
 - 5. ISDs create and host a "citizens" dashboard.

MPSERS Retirement Rates for FY2012, FY2013 and FY2014

	FY 2012		FY 2013		FY 2014 (Prelim.)	
	Employed Prior to	Employed After	Employed Prior to	Employed After	Employed Prior to	Employed After
7 10	7/1/2010	7/1/2010	7/1/2010	7/1/2010	7/1/2010	7/1/2010
Pension Normal Cost	3.74%	2.24%	3.47%	2.24%	3.94%	2.67%
Pension Unfunded Accrued Liability (UAL)	12.49%	12.49%	12.49%	12.49%	15.86%	15.86%
Retirement Incentive (5- yr. payback)			2.66%	2.66%	2.66%	2.66%
Pension Total Rate	15.96%	14.73%	18.62%	17.39%	22.46%	21.19%
Retiree Health (Cash Basis)	5.50%	5.50%	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%	5.75%
Surcharge due to Injunction	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%
Health Total Rate	8.50%	8.50%	8.75%	8.75%	8.75%	8.75%
Total Rate	24.46%	23.23%	27.37%	26.14%	31.21%	29.94%
Rate Increase			2.91%	2.91%	3.84%	3.80%

• The FY2013 budget builds the FY2012 one-time funding of \$155 million for the Michigan Public School Employees' Retirement System (MPSERS) retirement costs into the base as an ongoing payment. An additional \$24 million will be used to help defray the estimated increased cost of retiree health care of 0.25% in FY2013. Both of these payments will be made in a separate categorical to help districts meet their retirement obligations, with districts receiving an average of \$100 per pupil. The rate increase attributable to the 2010 early retirement incentive is 2.66% in FY2013. Based on payroll data, districts saved an estimated average of \$330 per pupil in FY2011 due to early retirement; however, because districts were impacted differently, the savings varied by district.

Other Innovations

- The role of the **Michigan Virtual University** is redefined with the creation of the Center for Online Learning, Research, and Innovation, which will serve as a statewide leader in online learning. In FY2013, MVU will conduct a pilot program for online learning, where funding will be based on student performance rather than on instructional seat time. Funding remains at FY2012 level of \$4.4 million; however, \$2.7 million in federal funds are replaced with state funds.
- The FY2013 budget includes new funding of \$1.75 million for statewide training programs for building principals on conducting educator evaluations in a fair and consistent manner.

Other Education Instructional Programs

- The FY2013 budget provides for \$1.4 billion for **special education services**: \$990.3 million in state funds (an increase of \$12.8 million from FY2012 enacted levels) and \$439.0 million in federal funds).
- The Executive Budget for the Department of Education includes \$209.2 million (\$41.2 million general fund) for early childhood programs within the **Michigan Office of Great Start**. Total funding for **Great Start** programs in School Aid is maintained at the current year level of \$115.5 million.

- ➤ The funding for **Great Start Readiness** programs is maintained at \$104.3 million (Schoolbased: \$95.4 M; Competitive: \$8.9 M), sufficient to fund over 30,000 slots at the **per-child allotment of \$3,400**. Funding for the longitudinal study is maintained at \$300,000.
- ➤ The FY2013 budget continues funding for **Great Start local collaboratives** at \$5.9 million for the creation and continuance of local Great Start collaborations.
- > The FY2013 budget maintains funding of \$5.0 million for the **Great Parents**, **Great Start ISD Program**, intended to provide children 0-5 and their families with early learning opportunities.
- A total of \$35.6 million for **career and vocational education** programs (\$26.6 million) and vocational education millage subsidy payments (\$9 million) is maintained.
- Funding to support **adult education** programs is maintained at \$22.0 million.
- Education programs in **juvenile justice facilities** are increased by \$938,300 from FY2012 enacted levels to \$2.1 million. Educational programs that serve **wards of the court** are supported with \$8.0 million. Funding for the **Youth ChalleNGe Program** is increased to \$765,600, a \$23,300 increase, for OPEB adjustments.

Student Support Services

- The FY2013 budget maintains \$309.0 million in funding for **at-risk** programs. Funding for **adolescent teen health centers** is continued at \$3.6 million. Funding for **hearing and vision screenings** is maintained at \$5.2 million. An additional \$812 million in federal funds are also available to assist schools in need of support services to improve student achievement and meet federal education standards.
- Funding for **school lunch and breakfast programs** is maintained at \$434.6 million: \$32.1 million in state funds and \$402.5 million in federal funds.
- A total of \$7.8 million (\$2.6 million state funds and \$5.2 million federal) supports the state's math and science centers.
- School transportation safety programs are funded at \$3.2 million: \$1.6 million for school bus inspections provided by Michigan State Police and \$1.6 million for school bus driver safety training. Funding to support transportation costs in small, isolated districts is maintained at \$2.0 million.
- State aid to libraries is maintained at \$1.3 million.

Assessment and Accountability

- The FY2013 budget provides funding to districts of \$38.0 million for **state data collection** and **reporting costs**, an increase of \$3.9 million.
- The FY2013 budget provides \$34.9 million (\$26.7 million in state and \$8.2 million in federal) for costs associated with **student assessments** required under state and federal law, a decrease of \$8.5 million in state funds.
- Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) funding totals \$9.2 million general fund. \$2.7 million in federal funds is replaced with state funds.

Debt Service and Other Required Payments

- > School Bond Loan Fund Debt Service is increased by \$26.8 million to \$120.4 million.
- > **Debt Service on Non-Durant District Bonds** is maintained at \$39.0 million.
- **Renaissance Zone** reimbursements are maintained at \$26.3 million.
- > School Aid Fund Borrowing Costs are reduced by \$10.0 million from the FY2012 enacted levels, to \$10.0 million.
- ▶ **PILT Payments** are reduced by \$1 million from FY2012 enacted levels to \$1.8 million.

FY2012 Supplemental of \$80.9 Million

- The FY2012 supplemental contained in the Governor's Executive Recommendation requests additional spending authority of \$76.2 million in School Aid Fund and \$4.7 million federal.
- The supplemental includes cost adjustments totaling \$63.3 million due to changes in pupil counts, taxable values, special education costs, school aid borrowing costs, PILT reimbursements and OPEB related adjustments. Additional federal spending authority is also increased to accommodate \$4.7 million for federal Education Jobs funds that were redistributed to the state subsequent to the initial award received in 2010 and appropriated in FY11.
- The FY2012 supplemental also contains \$12.5 million in one-time spending for kindergarten status assessments and a quality rating system for early childhood providers.