

MARCH PAYMENT INFORMATION

The March state school aid payment is the sixth regular payment of the 2018 fiscal year. The payment will be electronically transmitted to the districts' accounts on Tuesday, March 20, 2018.

Taxable value figures used in the calculation of the Section 20 and Section 22a state per pupil amounts are the initial tax year 2017 figures provided by the county treasurers via the web based reporting system. These data can be viewed by school district personnel on the [Department's website](#). To view your data, click on "Public Access" and then choose your district code and the applicable tax year from the drop down menu. **Questions concerning the taxable value figures should first be directed to the appropriate county treasurer.**

Pupil Membership – October 2017 pupil count data (audited for most districts) and audited February 2017 counts were used in the calculation of the blended membership count for the March payment used to calculate **Section 20 Foundation** allowances.

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. Additional information on the bona fide year-round school or program standards may be found in this [document](#).

Applicants requesting the waiver should use the form located on the [Department's website](#).

In September of 2017, PA 108 added a requirement that the district hold a joint public hearing with the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) regarding their waiver request. Upon submission of a complete and approvable waiver request, the MDE will contact the district to arrange a date for the waiver hearing. The hearing may be held jointly or separate from the regularly scheduled board meeting. The district must provide public notice of the hearing per the requirements of the Open Meetings Act, Act 267 of 1976.

Questions related to the waiver should be directed to Brian Ciloski, State Aid and School Finance, 517-373-3352, or CiloskiB@Michigan.gov.

STATE AID WAIVER REQUESTS

The Department has transitioned to accepting applications for waivers through online forms. All waiver requests must be received by **May 31, 2018** to be considered for the current school year. If

your district needs to request any of the following waivers, please use the link below to access the appropriate form:

[Common Calendar Waiver](#) – Used to deviate from the spring/winter break provided in the ISD’s common calendar.

[Labor Day Waiver](#) – Allows a district to provide instruction prior to Labor Day.

[Alternative Count Day Waiver](#) – Allows a district to have an alternate count date.

[Schools of Choice Waiver](#) – Allows a district to extend the application/enrollment windows for schools of choice.

Questions related to the above waivers should be directed to Brian Ciloski, State Aid and School Finance, 517-373-3352, or CiloskiB@Michigan.gov.

[Additional Forgiven Days Waiver](#) – Allows a district to request up to three additional days of forgiven time.

[Travel Time Waiver](#) – Allows a district to count additional travel time for certain programs.

Questions related to the above waivers should be directed to Jessica Beagle, State Aid and School Finance, 517-241-6435, or BeagleJ1@Michigan.gov.

FY 2017 SCHOOL AID SHORT TERM ADJUSTMENTS

The Department has nearly completed its review of the 2016-2017 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 in the payment month preceding the adjustment application. They will appear on the State Aid Financial Status Report in the “Prior Year Adjustment” section on a line labeled “2017 Short Term.” If you have any questions or concerns related to these adjustments, please contact Brian Ciloski, 517-373-3352, or CiloskiB@Michigan.gov.

SECTION 64b DUAL ENROLLMENT INCENTIVE FUNDS

Incentive payments for supporting postsecondary opportunities for students remain available in 2017-18. A maximum of \$60 per course can be claimed by coding eligible courses as Course Type “10” in the TSDL collection upon completion of a course (a separate submission of an Excel form is no longer required to claim these incentives). Incentive payments will be included in districts’ state school aid payments following claim processing and course verification. Questions related to the processing of Section 64b Dual Enrollment Incentives may be directed to the Center for Education Performance and Information at 517-335-0505 or cepi@michigan.gov. Questions related to dual enrollment and eligibility for these incentives may be directed to Christopher May at 517-335-1263 or MayC@michigan.gov.

BUDGET TRANSPARENCY REMINDERS

- All schools must use the standard budget transparency logo found on the [Department's website](#). 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 2017 calendar year data. A description and cost for each fringe benefit must be disclosed.
- Board approved budgets/amendments must include beginning and ending General Fund balances.
- For the following data elements, please post the most current data available, not previous fiscal year data: Bargaining Agreements, Health Care Plans, 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.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- **March 21, 2018**, is the deadline for ISDs to submit to the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) the **Audited FTE Counts** for the October 4, 2017 pupil membership count day.
- **February 14** was the FY 2018 **Supplemental Count** date. The Michigan Student Data System (MSDS) records for the Supplemental count date are due to the CEPI by **March 21, 2018** and are to be certified by **March 28, 2018**.
- **Proration factors:**
 - The proration factor for Section 31a – At Risk funding is 88.03454864%.
 - Section 152a - Headlee Obligation for Data Collection funds are being paid at a rate of \$25.3812136326 per pupil.
 - Section 22d(4) Isolated District funds are being paid at a rate of \$45.7555960542 per pupil.

Do you have questions above the information appearing in this [Update](#)? Call the consultants identified above or **Phil Boone, Director, State Aid & School Finance, MDE**, at 517-335-4059, or via fax at 517-241-0196, or via e-mail at BooneP2@michigan.gov.