

MARCH PAYMENT INFORMATION

The March state school aid payment is the sixth regular payment of the 2020 fiscal year. The payment will be electronically transmitted to district accounts on Friday, March 20, 2020.

Taxable value figures used in the calculation of the Section 20 and Section 22a state per pupil amounts are the initial tax year 2019 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, enter your district code and choose the applicable tax year from the drop down menu. **Questions concerning the taxable value figures should first be directed to the appropriate county treasurer.**

COVID-19 UPDATE

On March 12, 2020 Governor Gretchen Whitmer ordered the closure of all schools in Michigan until April 6, 2020 in order to slow the spread of COVID-19. The Michigan Department of Education is working with the State Budget Office to help develop legislative language in order to support districts through this difficult time.

Pupil Membership – October 2019 pupil count data (audited for most districts) and audited February 2019 counts were used in the calculation of the blended membership count for the March payment used to calculate **Section 20 Foundation** allowances.

EXECUTIVE BUDGET RECOMMENDATION FOR 2020-2021 SCHOOL AID

On February 12, 2020, Governor Whitmer's Executive Budget Recommendation for FY 2021 was presented to the legislature. The following are some highlights of the K-12 budget portion of the Governor's proposal.

- The per pupil **Foundation Grants for FY 2021** would increase based on a 1.5X formula, ranging from \$150 to \$225. Under this plan, the minimum foundation for FY 2021 will be \$8,336 and the target (maximum state guaranteed) foundation will be \$8,679 per pupil.
- The Executive Recommendation would appropriate an additional \$60 million for increased special education funding. This increase in funding is estimated to raise reimbursement levels approximately 2 percent.
- The Executive Recommendation would appropriate an additional \$60 million for **academically at-risk, economically disadvantaged** students. The pro-ration level for districts with local and state funding exceeding the target foundation would rise to 50%.
- An additional \$5 million is included for English Language Learners, approximately \$50 per student.
- The Executive Recommendation for FY 2021 would increase the **Section 81 Intermediate School District (ISD) General Operations** by 3% to \$71.2 million.
- Total state payments related to **MPSERS Retirement Contributions** would be in excess of \$1.5 billion under the Executive Recommendation.
- The Executive Recommendation would appropriate \$25 million, or approximately \$250 per teacher for a teacher supplies program.
- The Executive Recommendation would appropriate an additional \$250 million to increase GSRP allocations from \$1,086 to \$8,336 per pupil.

Boilerplate language change highlights include the following:

- In recognition of the varying costs of educating pupils based on type of education setting, **pupils enrolled in virtual programs in cyber schools** would generate 80% of the per-pupil foundation allowance.

The summary provided above should not be considered a complete description of the content of the executive proposal. Also, please be advised that changes are likely as the budget makes its way through the legislative process. Additional information and details on the executive budget proposal can be found [here](#).

LABOR DAY START WAIVERS

Section 1284b of the Revised School Code ([MCL 380.1284b](#)) prohibits public schools from scheduling instruction on or before Labor Day. However, the legislation also provides the State Superintendent with sole authority to issue a waiver from this requirement if it is determined that the school or program is a bona fide year-round school or program established for educational purposes.

When a Labor Day waiver is requested, Section 160 of the State School Aid Act ([MCL 388.1760](#)) requires the district to conduct a public hearing at a location within the district or intermediate school district. A public hearing must take place before the Labor Day waiver can be approved.

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

Questions related to Labor Day waivers may be directed to Chad Urchike at UrchikeC1@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, 2020** 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:

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

Questions related to this waiver may be directed to Chad Urchike at UrchikeC1@michigan.gov.

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

[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, CiloskiB@Michigan.gov.

[Additional Forgiven Time 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.

BULLETINS 1011 & 1014

The Office of Financial Management has completed its review of the 2018-19 Financial Information Database (FID) information. That data was submitted by each Michigan public school district in accordance with MCL 388.1618(5). Select FID data has been compiled and published in the [Bulletin 1011 - Analysis of Michigan Public Schools Revenue and Expenditures](#) and the [Bulletin 1014 - Michigan Public Schools Ranked by Select Financial Information](#). The Bulletin 1011 is a financial report that groups districts by size of pupil membership. It contains various pieces of financial information about groups of Michigan public school districts including balance sheet, revenue, and expenditure data. It also includes the fall pupil count and average teacher salary for those groups. The Bulletin 1014 contains district-level information including revenues and expenditures per pupil.

This Bulletin also includes the fall pupil count, average teacher salary, and taxable value information. Questions related to the Bulletins 1011 and 1014 may be directed to Christopher May at 517-335-1263 or MayC@michigan.gov.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- **March 18, 2020** is the deadline for ISDs to submit to the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) the **Audited FTE Counts** for the October 2, 2019 pupil membership count day.
- **February 12** was the FY 2020 **Supplemental Count** date. The Michigan Student Data System (MSDS) records for the Supplemental Count date are due to the CEPI by **March 18, 2020** and are to be certified by **March 22, 2020**.
- **Proration factors:**
 - The proration factor for Section 31a – At Risk funding is 78.69094743%.
 - The weighted average for Section 31a – At Risk funding is \$8,214.
 - Section 152a - Headlee Obligation for Data Collection funds are being paid at a rate of \$25.7961465164 per pupil.
 - Section 22d(4) Isolated District funds are being paid at a rate of \$51.6774602993 per pupil.

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