



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

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GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 7, 2019

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Venessa A. Keesler, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent 
Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports

SUBJECT: Section 31a Redirection and Legislative Update

The State School Aid Act, passed on September 30, 2019, revised several provisions for the Section 31a categorical funds. This memo provides information on the revisions as well as the provisions that have remained.

Section 31a (16), referred to as the redirection provision, was removed from the law. This provision for redirecting funds based on a percentage of those students who did not achieve proficiency was removed in its entirety in this current law. Therefore, the requirement for local educational agencies to document and submit evidence of redirection to the Michigan Department of Education is rescinded.

Additional updates for 2019-20 Section 31a law:

- The *intent and purpose* of Section 31a remains the same: to increase student proficiency in 3rd grade English language arts and 8th grade math; to improve high school career and college readiness; and to reduce chronic absenteeism.
- The *at-risk eligible pupil identification criteria* remain the same.
- The required *assurances for Section 31a* remain the same: implement K-12 Multi-tiered System of Supports (MTSS); comply with Read by Grade 3; use early literacy and numeracy resources; and supplement School Breakfast Program.
- The *professional development* cap is increased to 7.5% of allocation. Professional development must focus on one of three areas: the implementation of the MTSS with fidelity (and by utilizing the data from the system to guide instruction and curriculum); the Read by Grade 3 law; or a coaching model.
- The *schoolwide reform* provision has updated language that includes Tier 1, evidence-based practices.
- The *allocation process* now includes a provision for schools with new Community Eligibility Program status as well as funds designated to offset significant changes in allocations.

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cc: Michigan Education Alliance