



Transforming Education in Detroit: Legislative summaries

The legislation package will be introduced in time to have a transformed Detroit Community School District in place for the 2016-17 academic year.

- **Empowerment Zone, Detroit Public Schools and the Detroit Community School District**
 - Creates an “OldCo/NewCo” model. The current DPS would exist as the “OldCo” and retire the district’s debt. The newly created Detroit Community School District would operate the schools, acquiring the staff, contracts, assets, and students from DPS.
 - The DCSD will be governed by a seven-member school board that is initially appointed by the Governor, with four appointments, and the Mayor, with three appointments. Board will transition to a fully elected board within five years.
 - Prohibits the new district from levying millages until the old debt is fully repaid.
 - Creates a Detroit Education Commission to oversee the hiring of a new Detroit Chief Education Officer position.
 - The DEC will be comprised of 5 members, with 3 appointed by the Governor and 2 appointed by the Mayor.
 - The CEO will craft an accountability plan, a facilities plan and an enrollment plan all focused on improving the quality and accessibility of educational choices for families in Detroit.
 - The accountability plan will include all schools within the Detroit educational empowerment zone, including traditional public, charter public and EAA schools.
 - The DEC will operate a voluntary enrollment system, with the addition of common forms and common notification dates to make it easier for families to identify and enroll in the school that best meets their children’s needs.

- **Financial Review Commission**
 - Puts existing Detroit Public Schools and new Detroit Community School District under the city’s Financial Review Commission until the DPS debt is repaid in full.
 - The Financial Review Commission will have oversight on both school districts through a number of mechanisms, including but not limited to approval of any new debt before it is encumbered.

- **Foundation Allowance for Detroit Community School District**
 - Creates a foundation allowance for the new Detroit Community School District in the School Aid Fund that is equivalent to the current DPS foundation allowance.

- **Addressing contracts**
 - Allows the Chief Education Officer to address collective bargaining agreements when a school is closed or replaced due to unacceptable performance levels. This will ensure that current labor regulations fit into the new accountability and governance structure for Detroit schools.

- **Two bills addressing Emergency Loan Act**
 - Updates existing Emergency Loan Act to allow the state additional flexibility in addressing the district's debt. A companion bill addresses some references in a different act.

- **Addresses Facilities Transition**
 - Assists with ownership status for facilities transferred from Detroit Public Schools to Detroit Community School District; states that such a transfer does not constitute a change in ownership.