

2024-2025 Section 31a Legislative Updates Summary

- The Intent and Purpose of Section 31a legislation have not changed. (subsection 1)
 - 3rd grade English Language Arts Proficiency
 - 8th grade Mathematics Proficiency
 - High School Career & College Readiness
 - Reducing Chronic Absenteeism
- The *Section 31a Assurances* have **not** changed. (subsection 2, 6, 9 & 10)
 - Comply with Read By Grade 3 (RBG3) Law
 - Use resources that address early literacy and numeracy
 - Implement a K-12 Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework with fidelity
 - Use funds to supplement the School Breakfast Program
 - Annually submit the Section 31a Annual Program & Fiscal Report (APFR) no later than July 15th
 - Must allow MDE, or MDE designee, to audit all Section 31a records related to the funded programming
- The *At-risk eligible identification* criteria have **not** changed. (subsection 25)
 - Students are considered At-risk eligible if they meet any one of the 10 criteria listed in Section 31a.
 - The definition of an At-risk pupil was expanded to include pre-kindergarten students in 2021-2022.
 - Additional information is available on the [MDE Section 31a website](#) in the FAQ.
- Year 2 of the *new Section 31a allocation formula* has been **added** to the law called the **"Opportunity Index."** (subsection 3 & 4)
 - Districts will be assigned to an Opportunity Index Band, from Band 1 through Band 6, based on the poverty concentration of the district.
 - Poverty concentration will be determined by the Economically Disadvantaged count divided by the total enrollment student count from the previous Fall Michigan Student Data System (MSDS) General Collection.
 - The assigned Opportunity Index (OI) band determines which multiplier will be used in the Section 31a allocation formula. The multiplier rates, or percentages, are defined in the legislation and range from 35-47% of the average target foundation allowance.
 - Proration will still apply to all districts' Section 31a allocations. For the 2023-2024 grant cycle, the prorated multipliers will range from 11.55% to 15.3%, not the 35-47%, due to the grant not currently being fully funded.
- In 2024-2025, for eligible school districts, new language has been added for "Expanded Use of Funds" provisions. Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and Public School Academies (PSAs) identified to be in the OI Bands 5 or 6 may use a portion of their funding the following allowable use of funds. (subsection 14)
 - Subsection 14(a) allows for schools with an Economically Disadvantaged percentage of 73% or more within districts that have an OI Score within Bands 5 or 6 to use up to 30% of their allocation to support strategies to reduce teacher-to-pupil ratio in grade kindergarten to third-grade classrooms.
 - Subsection 14(b) allows for districts with OI Scores within Bands 5 or 6 (73% or more economically disadvantaged scores) to use up to 30% of their allocation to support

retention and recruitment strategies that focus on decreasing teacher and support staff turnover and vacancies.

Additional legislative language has been included that defines some of the requirements for implementing the expanded use of funds in subsection 14. The requirements defined in subsections 15 to 17 include:

- Districts must align with the needs assessment and Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Model. [Section 31a(2)(15)]
 - Districts must not use funding for administrative costs or to supplant existing funding, including, but not limited to, maintaining existing salaries or costs. [Section 31a(15)]
 - Districts must report to the MDE no later than November 1 of the current fiscal year the intent to use the subsection (14) provision. [Section 31a(15)]
 - Districts may retain the use of the Section 31a grant under subsection (14) for the fiscal year in which eligibility is determined, plus two additional fiscal years for a total of three grant cycles. [Section 31a(16)]
 - MDE will provide a report to LEAs and PSAs of the list of eligible schools under subsection (14)(a) for the upcoming fiscal year by August 1 of each fiscal year. [Section 31a(17)]
- The professional learning cap of 7.5% was removed in 2021-2022, but professional learning expenses remain limited to the following topics (subsection 12):
- Implementing a coaching model.
 - Implementing the K-12 MTSS framework with fidelity and utilizing the data from that system to inform curriculum and instruction.
 - Implementing the Read By Grade 3 law with fidelity.
- The *Schoolwide Reform* criteria for qualifying & requirements have not changed (subsection 11).
- Requirements to implement Schoolwide Reform include buildings that must meet the minimum of 40% At-risk per school. The strategy must be of evidence-based practices that are guided by the district's comprehensive needs assessment and included in district/school improvement plans.
- In 2021-2022, the School Security provision expanded to include School Parent Liaison personnel and the requirement to connect parents to the school community (subsection 5).
- Districts must have 50%+ of the student population being Economically Disadvantaged eligible to use funds for security personnel and school parent liaisons.
 - Removes 20% cap on school security.
 - Remains aligned to the needs assessment and the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) model.
- Language was added in 2021-2022 allowing for use of funds for *Pre-Kindergarten* instructional and noninstructional services (subsection 18).
- May use up to 10% of funds received to provide evidence-based instruction.
 - Students must be identified as At-risk eligible based on legislative criteria (subsection 25).