Office of Health and Safety

31aa and 31n Webinar

Fall 2025

MICHIGAN Department of Education

Agenda

- Quick Overview
- Section 31aa—School Mental Health and School Safety
  - Highlights of the Legislation
- Section 31n—School-Based Mental Health and Support Services
  - Highlights of the Legislation
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Q & A

MICHIGAN Department of Education

Quick Overview

31aa

- Several updates for Fiscal Year 26
- Includes school mental health and school safety
- Eligible recipients include districts, non-publics, ISDs and Michigan School for the Deaf
- Must agree to be subject to a comprehensive investigation
- There are three (3) different subsections. One (1) will be opt-in, the other two (2) are competitive grants and will be awarded based on applications.
- Expense reports due July 1, 2026

31n

- Funds are to be used for mental health and support services for general education students
- Must seek federal Medicaid match funding for all eligible services and qualified providers must be placed on appropriate staff pool list
- Eligible recipients are ISDs, but they can reallocate funds to constituent districts within the boundaries of their ISD

31aa Mental Health and School Safety

31aa

- There is a total of $300 million allocated from the school aid fund and $21 million allocated from the general fund. Funds are split among 3 subsections. ($300 million for public schools, $21 million for non-public schools)
  - Subsection 2: $200 million from the school aid fund, $14 million from the general fund
    - Opt-in process, formula based (per-pupil funding), funds disbursed by December 31, 2025
  - Subsection 4: $50 million from the school aid fund, $3.5 million from the general fund
    - Competitive grant to be used towards school resource officers and safety dogs
  - Subsection 5: $50 million from the school aid fund, $3.5 million from the general fund
    - Competitive grant to be used to hire or contract for support staff for student mental health needs

31aa (continued)

- To obtain your **ESTIMATED AWARD under Subsection 2**, take your student count and multiply it by $140/student.
  - This estimate assumes that all eligible entities opt in.
  - Eligible entities for subsection 2 are districts, intermediate districts, nonpublic schools, and the Michigan School for the Deaf.
  - Funds under subsection 2 are to be spent by September 30, 2026 or recipients can request an extension when they submit end of year expense report.
- Eligible applicants for subsections 4 and 5 are districts, intermediate districts, nonpublic schools, and the Michigan School for the Deaf.
  - Any unexpended funds awarded under subsections 4 and 5 can be carried forward into 26-27.
- Expense reports for **all** 31aa funds are due July 1, 2026, through GEMS/MARS.

31aa, cont.

- To receive 31aa funding:
  - Subsection 2: Eligible recipients will need to opt in and agree to all certifications. This will be completed through the Grant Electronic Monitoring System/Michigan Administrative Review System (GEMS/MARS) via MiLogin.
    - The deadline to opt-in is **December 4, 2025, at 11:59 pm.**
    - Funds will be disbursed by December 31, 2025, on a per-pupil basis based on the number of eligible recipients that opt in.
  - Subsection 4: Eligible recipients will need to apply through NexSys for this competitive grant. The process will be communicated when it is available and ready.
  - Subsection 5: Eligible recipients will need to apply through NexSys for this competitive grant. The process will be communicated when it is available and ready.

31aa Opt-In Form

- Once you log in to GEMS/MARS, you will need to look under “My Pending Tasks" to find the Opt-In Form.
  - You must login through MiLogin
  - You must be logged into GEMS/MARS. This is not a public form.
- The form is titled "31aa FY 2026 Opt-In Form”
  - Click on the first "paper" icon to access the form.

Subsection 2

Subsection 2—Activities to Improve Student Mental Health and Improve Student Safety

- This subsection is an opt in process. By opting in, recipients agree to the following:
  - To complete an expense report by July 1, 2026.
  - To return funds that were used on unallowable expenses.
  - To request a 1-year extension on the end of year expense report for any unexpended funds not spent by September 30, 2026.
  - In the event of a mass casualty event, must agree to be subject to a comprehensive investigation, waive any privilege that may otherwise protect information from disclosure, and must agree to comply with a comprehensive investigation.
  - To coordinate with intermediate districts to avoid duplication of services and to streamline delivery of services to students.

Allowable Expenses for Mental Health Initiatives

- Hiring or contracting for support staff including:
  - Psychologists
  - Social workers—Bachelor's or Master's Level
  - Counselors
  - Nurses
  - Community Health Workers
  - Marriage and Family Therapists
- Hiring or contracting a behavioral health coordinator
- Purchasing and implementing mental health screening tools
- Purchasing a statewide, integrated technology platform to streamline behavioral health documentation and care coordination
- Providing school-based mental health personnel access to consultation with behavioral health clinicians to respond to complex student mental health needs
- If you would like to hire for a support staff position not on this list, please contact the program office for clarification.

Allowable Expenses for Mental Health Initiatives (2)

- Purchasing and implementing an online behavioral health tool moderated and led by licensed behavioral health professionals
- Evidence-based trainings to support mental health
- Costs associated with collaboration between school employees, families, and community partners to address the academic, behavioral, and social needs of all students through collaborative partnerships, resource coordination, data collection, and data sharing
- Costs associated with conducting a systemic school mental health needs assessment and resource mapping that identifies programmatic and systemic needs and helps staff determine priorities and create action plans

Allowable Expenses for School Safety Initiatives

- Coordination with local law enforcement
- Training for school staff on threat assessment
- Training for school staff and students on threat response
- Training for school staff on crisis communication
- Safety infrastructure including, but not limited to:
  - Cameras
  - Door blocks
  - Hardened vestibules
  - Window screening
  - Technology to operate buzzer systems
  - Firearm detection software that integrates into existing security cameras to detect and alert school personnel and first responders to visible firearms on property

Allowable Expenses for School Safety Initiatives (2)

- Age-appropriate training for students and families on responsible firearm ownership, including safe handling and safe storage
- School resource officers and safety dogs
  - School resource officers must be properly licensed and in good standing with the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and in compliance with all applicable laws
  - **Dogs cannot be purchased, only contracted**
- Student Safety Management System, the information technology platform and related services to improve student safety by mitigating cyberbullying, school violence, human trafficking, and self-harm that supports students from grades K to 12

Allowable Expenses for School Safety Initiatives (3)

- A secure platform administered by the department of state police, for school officials, emergency responders, and emergency management coordinators to house all school safety-related items, including but not limited to:
  - EOP templates
  - EOP guidance
  - Reference documents
  - Security assessments
- Emergency infrastructure needs to respond to an immediate threat to the health or safety of students and staff in the district, intermediate district, nonpublic school, or the Michigan School for the Deaf.
- These funds **shall not be expended for this purpose without first obtaining approval from MDE**.
  - Requests to use funds in this manner must be emailed to MDE-31aa@Michigan.gov.

Allowable Expenses for School Safety Initiatives (4)

- A contract with a vendor for a comprehensive safety and security assessment or security event assessment
- An emergency response system
- Implementing cell phone free school policies
  - “Cell phone free school policy” means a policy that prohibits students from accessing or using a personal communication device capable of telecommunication or digital communication during instructional time, as determined by the school.

Subsection 4

- **Subsection 4—School Resource Officers (SROs) and safety dogs**
- **Unexpended funds can be carried forward to 2026-2027**
  - This subsection is an application process. By applying, recipients agree to the following certifications:
    - To complete an expense report by July 1, 2026
    - Return funds that were used on unallowable expenses
    - Agree to be subject to a comprehensive investigation, waive any privilege that may otherwise protect information from disclosure in the event of a mass casualty event, and must agree to comply with a comprehensive investigation.
    - Submit a spending plan to sustain salaries after grant funding has concluded
    - Coordinate with intermediate districts to avoid duplication of services and to streamline delivery of services to students
    - Ensure any SRO hired with these funds has completed training by the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards.

Allowable Expenses Under Subsection 4

- School resource officers must be properly licensed and in good standing with the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards, and must be in compliance with all applicable laws.
- Safety dogs must be **contracted** by a law enforcement agency of the state, a local unit of government, or a district/intermediate district. The safety dog should be trained in detection of firearms, explosives, narcotics, or vape substances.
- Must submit a spending plan for sustaining the salaries and positions after the grant period ends.

Subsection 5

- **Subsection 5—Hiring or Contracting for Support Staff for Student Mental Health Needs**
- **Unexpended funds can be carried forward to 2026-2027**
  - This subsection is an application process. By applying, recipients agree to the following certifications:
    - To complete an expense report by July 1, 2026
    - Return funds that were used on unallowable expenses
    - Agree to be subject to a comprehensive investigation, waive any privilege that may otherwise protect information from disclosure in the event of a mass casualty event, and must agree to comply with a comprehensive investigation.
    - Submit a spending plan to sustain salaries after grant funding has concluded
    - Coordinate with intermediate districts to avoid duplication of services and to streamline delivery of services to students

Allowable Expenses Under Subsection 5

- Hiring or contracting for support staff including:
  - Psychologists
  - Social Workers—Bachelor's or Master's Level
  - Counselors
  - Nurses
  - Community Health Workers
  - Marriage and Family Therapists
- Must submit a spending plan for sustaining the salaries and positions after the grant period ends.
- Can be used to hire or contract service providers

Unallowable Expenses Include, but are not Limited to:

(questions about allowability should be directed to the program office.)

- Employee assistance programs
- Gym memberships
- Playgrounds, including equipment, landscaping and materials
- Renovation costs not associated with safety of students
- Deans of Students
- Direct purchase of safety dogs—**Per legislation: safety dogs must be contracted by a law enforcement agency of the state, a local unit of government, or a district/intermediate district. It should be trained in detection of firearms, explosives, narcotics, or vape substances.**
- Direct purchase or contracting for therapy animals and supplies/training associated with
- Hall monitors
- Classroom teachers
- Security personnel that does not fall under the definition of SRO as defined in the legislation
- Student or staff branded items, including but not limited to shirts, toys, cup/mugs, pens, etc.
- Mental health supplies not associated with resource mapping and needs assessments
- Food for events, snack carts, prizes, staff rooms, etc.

Non-Public Schools

- Non-public schools must complete the Nonpublic School Membership Report (NSMR) to be eligible for this funding.
- Non-public schools must be registered in SIGMA.
  - Make sure all contact information in the system is correct. Checks will be sent to the address on file.
- Non-public schools will be paid via check or direct deposit through SIGMA.
- Have active accounts in both GEMS/MARS and NexSys.

Summary of Changes from FY25 to FY26

- Total funding for Section 31aa has increased
- It is broken into 3 parts with different requirements for each part.
  - Subsection 2 will be housed in GEMS/MARS.
  - Subsection 4 will be housed in NexSys.
  - Subsection 5 will be housed in NexSys.
- The opt-in process in GEMS/MARS will **NOT** require a budget from eligible recipients.
- The competitive applications in NexSys will require a budget and sustainability plan.
- Subsection 2 payments will begin by December 31, 2025.
- An expense report will be by due July 1, 2026. This will be collected through GEMS/MARS.
- Allowable expenses are VERY prescribed.
- There is **NOT** any eligibility for consortiums.

Best Practices and Reminders

- Each fiscal year award should be kept separate for accounting purposes.
  - Each year has different allowable expenses, restrictions, and grant end dates.
  - FY25 carryover funds can continue to be used on FY25 allowable costs, but please refer to slide 20 for unallowable expenses in FY26.
    - If you have any questions, please reach out to mde-31aa@michigan.gov.
- If unable to keep the funds separate, please operate under a first in/first out policy, however, the funds must still follow the requirements of the year in which they were awarded.
- If any funds are remaining from FY24 (SY23/24), the final expenditure date was September 30, 2025, and any unexpended funds will need to be returned.
  - If there are any funds remaining reach out to mde-31aa@michigan.gov to discuss how those funds will be returned to the Department

More Best Practices and Reminders

- The grant period for using FY 26 31aa funds starts October 1, 2025.
  - Grant funds cannot be used for expenses prior to October 1, 2025, because of when the budget was officially signed into law.
- Questions about funds within the State School Aid budget should always be directed to MDE, not vendors.
- Questions about waiving any privilege or being subject to a comprehensive investigation should be directed to your legal counsel.
  - As an executive level state department, MDE cannot provide legal advice.

More Best Practices and Reminders (2)

- Please make sure that the Educational Entity Master (EEM) includes an active contact. That contact will receive award documents and communications from the program office.
- If you have questions about the process to update the EEM, please reach out to cepi@michigan.gov.

31n

31n Funding

- Funds from FY 22-23 had to be expended by September 30, 2025.
  - If there are any funds remaining, reach out to Scott Hutchins at HutchinsS1@Michigan.gov to discuss how those funds will be returned.

- 31n(6) funding provides payments to ISDs for the provision of mental health and support services to general education students residing within the boundaries of the ISD or to provide funding to constituent districts for the provision of mental health and support services to general education students.

- Recipients of 31n(6) funds shall continue to seek federal Medicaid match funding for all eligible mental health and support services, but this is not just for Medicaid-eligible students.

31n Funding (continued)

- ISDs must apply for the 31n(6) base amount of $1,003,100 per ISD in NexSys.
- The 31n(6) per pupil allocation is estimated to be around $22 per pupil but does not require an application because of unique boilerplate language.
  - First payments for the 31n(6) per pupil allocation will be reflected in your October State Aid Status Report, but those funds must still be accounted for in your application budget.
- The 31n(12) allocation for FY 26 will be the same as FY 25, approximately $89,285 per ISD.
  - To receive 31n(12) funding, ISDs just need to confirm in their NexSys application that they wish to receive the funds and agree to use them for their intended purpose.
  - 31n(12) funds are for administering/coordinating programs funded under 31n.

31n Boilerplate Language

- There were no changes to the FY 26 31n boilerplate language, which means, **with approval**, ISDs may once again use 31n(6) funds for purposes other than adding licensed master's level behavioral health providers.
- Other allowable 31n(6) expenses include:
  - adding support staff with less than a master's degree in behavioral health.
  - creating or strengthening school-based behavioral health assessment teams (BHATs) that focus on providing age-appropriate interventions.
  - providing evidence-based trainings that support student mental health.

31n Applications

- FY 26 Applications will be available in NexSys **after November 1, 2025**, but the final date is still to be determined.
- When applying for 31n(6) funds, ISDs can apply for up to the entire amount allocated to them, or they can apply for less.
- If funding awarded to an ISD under this section remains unspent, or if the ISD applies for a lower allocation than the maximum amount permitted, MDE, in conjunction with the ISD, may reallocate the funds to another ISD.
- This year's application makes it easier to seek approval for using 31n(6) funds for purposes other than adding licensed master's level behavioral health providers.
  - Supplemental report can also be completed in GEMS/MARS if necessary.

31n Consultants

- Michelle Hutchison: HutchisonM1@michigan.gov
- Lauren Kazee: KazeeL@michigan.gov
- Chris Robinson: RobinsonC15@michigan.gov

Frequently Asked Questions

- Where will we request funding under each of these sections?
  - 31aa—Certification and opt-in form for Subsection 2 will be housed in GEMS/MARS. Competitive applications for Subsection 4 and 5 will be housed in NexSys.
  - 31n—Application will be housed in NexSys

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Frequently Asked Questions (2)

When can we expect to receive the funds for these sections?

- 31n per pupil allocations will be reflected in October 2025 State Aid Status Report. 31n base allocations will be reflected in State Aid Status Report by February 1, 2026.
- Funds for 31aa, Subsection 2 will be disbursed by December 31, 2025. Funds for Subsections 4 and 5 will be disbursed after the application period.

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Frequently Asked Questions (3)

- When does this funding end?
  - Section 31aa: Subsection 2 grant period of 10/1/2025 - 9/30/2026
    - Can request 1-year of carryover
  - Subsections 4 and 5 grant period of 10/1/2025 - 9/30/2026
    - Unexpended funds can automatically be carried forward to 9/30/2027
  - Section 31n: grant period of 10/1/2025 - 9/30/2026
    - Unexpended funds can automatically be carried forward to 9/30/2028

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Questions?

Please direct your questions to:

- For 31aa: MDE-31aa@michigan.gov
- For 31n: HutchisonM1@michigan.gov

- To access the full State School Aid Act for these two sections, please visit:
  - Section 31n
  - Section 31aa

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