



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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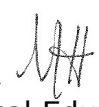
SUE C. CARNELL, Ph.D.
INTERIM STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 18, 2025

TO: Senate and House Committees on Appropriations
Senate and House Fiscal Agencies

FROM: Diane L. Golzynski, Ph.D., RDN., SNS, Deputy Superintendent, 
Division of Business, Health, and Library Services

Michele A. Harmala, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent, 
Division of Educator Excellence, Career and Technical Education, Special
Education and Administrative Law

SUBJECT: FY2025 Report on Final Judgment and Settlement Expenditures

This report is being submitted to fulfill the requirement under MCL 18.1396(3) to provide information pertaining to final judgments and settlements involving the Michigan Department of Education (MDE). This report also provides information pertaining to court actions currently pending against MDE.

The following matters are being reported (see attachment):

- Court actions currently pending against the department – 10 matters

MDE did not pay or receive any judgment amounts in fiscal year 2025. MDE also did not pay or receive any settlement amounts during this most recently completed fiscal year.

For questions, please contact:

Olivia Ponte,
Legislative Liaison
Michigan Department of Education
PonteO1@Michigan.gov
517-927-2845

Attachment

cc: Sue C. Carnell, Ph.D., Interim State Superintendent

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FISCAL YEAR 2025

DEPARTMENT: Michigan Department of Education (MDE)

COURT ACTIONS CURRENTLY PENDING AGAINST THE DEPARTMENT

COURT ACTION	COURT	CASE NO.	FILED DATE	ESTIMATE OF THE TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION OF THE FACTS INVOLVED
<i>Alzandani, et al v. Hamtramck Public Schools; Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency; and Michigan Department of Education</i>	United State District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan	2:23-cv-12817	11/06/2023	\$250,000	Putative class action civil rights lawsuit for declaratory and injunctive relief alleging that student with disabilities have not received adequate special education services, pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Two questions certified to the Sixth Circuit.
	United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit	24-0107	12/16/2024		
<i>A.J..o/b/o K.A v. Gretchen Whitmer, in her official capacity as Governor of the State of Michigan; Dr. Michael F. Rice, in his official capacity as State Superintendent; Dr. Pamela Pugh, in her official capacity as President State Board of Education; Dana Nessel, in her capacity as Attorney General for the State of Michigan; Dr. Nikolai Vitti, in his official capacity as Superintendent of the Detroit Public Schools Community District; and Jenice C. Mitchell Ford, in her official capacity as General Counsel for the Detroit Public Schools Community District</i>	United State District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan	2:23-cv-12817	11/13/2023	\$100,000	A student with disabilities filed an appeal to federal court to challenge a due process hearing decision that found that the student received a free appropriate public education from the school district and was not entitled to compensatory education. The student also alleges various claims against the governor, attorney general, state superintendent, state board of education, school district and others regarding the student's alleged right to literacy. Finally, the student claims the student was allegedly discriminated against due to the student's disability.

DEPARTMENT: Michigan Department of Education (MDE)

COURT ACTIONS CURRENTLY PENDING AGAINST THE DEPARTMENT, CONT.

COURT ACTION	COURT	CASE NO.	FILED DATE	ESTIMATE OF THE TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION OF THE FACTS INVOLVED
<i>Office for Civil Rights v. Michigan Department of Education</i>	United States Department of Education, Office of Hearings and Appeals	24-20-CR	5/23/2024	N/A	Office for Civil Rights alleges MDE violated Section 504 and ADA related to compensatory education guidance issued during the pandemic.
<i>L.G. o/b/o G.G. v. Kelloggsville Public Schools, Kent Intermediate School District, and Michigan Department of Education</i>	United State District Court for the Western District of Michigan	1:24-cv-00833	8/13/2024	\$250,000	Appeal of an IDEA due process proceeding involving a student from Kelloggsville Public Schools. MDE is sued based on allegations that MDE failed to appropriately train and oversee the administrative law judges who handle due process hearings.
<i>Michigan International Prep School v. Michigan Department of Education</i>	29th Circuit Court - Clinton - St. Johns	2024-12490-AA	12/18/2024	\$914,271	Appeal of a pupil membership audit final decision alleging that school district claimed more students in its membership than allowed by statute.
<i>Mary Lynn Taylor v. State of Michigan, Michigan Department of Education, and Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency</i>	Michigan Supreme Court	No. 167738	7/17/2025	\$200,000	Plaintiff sued various state agencies claiming constitutional violations related to extending and beginning school years before Labor Day. Applications for leave to appeal to the Michigan Supreme Court and United States Supreme Court were denied. Pending a decision on Plaintiff's request for rehearing by the United States Supreme Court.

DEPARTMENT: Michigan Department of Education (MDE)

COURT ACTIONS CURRENTLY PENDING AGAINST THE DEPARTMENT, CONT.

COURT ACTION	COURT	CASE NO.	FILED DATE	ESTIMATE OF THE TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION OF THE FACTS INVOLVED
<i>Washtenaw Intermediate School District v. Michigan Department of Education; Teri Rink, in her official capacity as Director, Office of Special Education, Michigan Department of Education; and Chantel Mozden, in her official capacity as Supervisor, Program Accountability, Office of Special Education, Michigan Department of Education</i>	22nd Judicial Circuit Court Washtenaw County	25-643-AA	4/30/2025	N/A	Plaintiff filed an alleged "claim of appeal" challenging the special education state complaint decision issued by the Office of Special Education as having exceeded statutory authority.
<i>Washington-Parks Academy v. Michigan Department of Education</i>	Office of Hearings and Appeals, United States Department of Education	N/A	5/5/2025	\$4,000,000	Petitioner seeks administrative appeal under 20 U.S.C. 1231b-2(b) of MDE's final management decision regarding an improper and unaccounted for transfer of ESSER funds to a separate school district.
<i>Michelle Times v. School District of the City of Pontiac; Board of Education of the City of Pontiac; Michigan Department of Education; Oakland Schools Intermediate School District; and Dr. Kimberly Leverette</i>	Oakland County Circuit Court	25-215991-CD	7/1/2025	\$1,000,000	Plaintiff claims violations of Civil Rights, Retaliation Against a Mandated Reporter, Conspiracy, Breach of Contract, and Related State Law Claims related to Pontiac's discharge of Plaintiff.

DEPARTMENT: Michigan Department of Education (MDE)

COURT ACTIONS CURRENTLY PENDING AGAINST THE DEPARTMENT, CONT.

COURT ACTION	COURT	CASE NO.	FILED DATE	ESTIMATE OF THE TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION OF THE FACTS INVOLVED
<i>Wyoming Public Schools v. State of Michigan; Michigan Department of Education; State Superintendent of Public Instruction, in his official capacity; Michigan Department of Technology, Management, and Budget; Treasurer of the State of Michigan, in her official capacity; and Michigan Budget Development Office of Education</i>	Michigan Court of Claims	25-140-MM	8/22/2025	\$1,200,000	Plaintiff claims violations of ELCRA, the Headlee Amendment, the Michigan Constitution's anti-retaliation provision, and the APA. Plaintiff also requests a declaratory ruling related to the MDE's administration of Sec. 41 and Sec. 31a funding.