Office of Health and Safety

31n, 31p, and 31aa Webinar

Fall 2026

MICHIGAN Department of Education

Agenda



- Quick Overview
- Section 31aa—School Mental Health and School Safety
- Section 31n—School-Based Mental Health and Support Services
- Section 31p—Improving youth access to evidence-based mental health services
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Q & A
- Contact Information

Quick Overview (1 of 2)



31aa

- Several updates for Fiscal Year 27.
- Includes school mental health and school safety.
- Eligible recipients include districts, non-publics, ISDs and Michigan School for the Deaf.
- There are two (2) different subsections.
- Recipients of Subsection 3 must agree to be subject to a comprehensive investigation.
- Expense reports due July 1, 2027.

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.

Quick Overview (2 of 2)



31p

- Funds are to be used for improving youth access to evidence-based mental health services by training school mental health professionals in effective practices, such as cognitive behavioral therapy and mindfulness.
- Eligible recipients are ISDs.
- Grants will be awarded on an equal amount to each ISD with an approved grant application.
- ISDs must forward the entire amount they are awarded to the program that will provide the training.

31aa Mental Health and School Safety

Reopening of Fiscal Year 2026 Section 31aa(4) and (5) Funding



- MDE has reopened applications in NexSys for Fiscal Year 2026 Section 31aa(4) (SROs and Safety Dogs) and 31aa(5) (Hiring Mental Health Support Staff) funding.
- Since these are FY26 funds, they still have the requirements set in legislation for FY26, including the language around agreeing to a comprehensive investigation.
- Applications will reopen September 1, 2026, and close at 5 p.m. on October 5, 2026.
- Applications will only be available to entities who have not already received funding.
    - If your entity submitted an application but was not funded, you can reapply in this new window.

What is different this year?



- Total funding for Section 31aa has remained the same, however, there are capped per pupil amounts for each subsection.
- 31aa(2): funding to improve student mental health
  - $73.53 per pupil
- 31aa(3): funding to improve student safety
  - $147.06 per pupil
- The comprehensive investigation language is only tied to the 31aa(3) school safety funding.
- Entities can receive mental health funding but choose not to take the school safety funding.
- An expense report will be due July 1, 2027, by amending the applications submitted in NexSys.
- Allowable expenses remain clearly defined and limited.

31aa—Subsection 2: Mental Health Funding



Subsection 2:

- Capped at $73.53 per pupil
- Applications will be available in NexSys.

31aa—Subsection 3: School Safety Funding



Subsection 3:

- Capped at $147.06 per pupil
- Applications will be available in NexSys.
- All eligible districts, ISDs, non-public schools, and the Michigan School for the Deaf that apply and agree to comply with a comprehensive investigation.*

*The comprehensive investigation will assess the circumstances surrounding a mass casualty event.

31aa(6)—Comprehensive Investigation



To receive funding under subsection (3), recipients must agree to be subject to a comprehensive investigation after a mass casualty event and must affirmatively agree to waive any privilege held by the district that may protect information from disclosure in the event of a mass casualty event.

- This investigation will assess emergency response effectiveness, compliance with safety protocols, communication procedures, and any factors contributing to the incident.
- The investigation will include access to relevant records and data from the district, interviewing witnesses and district personnel involved, and issuing findings and recommendations based on the investigation.
- The report will be submitted to the governor and relevant legislative committees.
- The report must include recommendations for preventing future incidents and improving school safety protocols

This clause only applies to school safety funds.

31aa(8)—Comprehensive Investigation Definitions



- **Mass casualty event**: an incident resulting in significant physical injuries to not fewer than 3 individuals on school grounds or at a school-sponsored event, an incident resulting in 2 or more fatalities, or an incident of such scope that the emergency response resources in the jurisdiction are not sufficient and resources from surrounding jurisdictions are required.
- **Significant physical injury**: an injury that involves a risk of death, significant physical pain, protracted and obvious disfigurement, or a protracted loss or impairment.
- **School grounds**: all properties owned or operated by the district including transportation vehicles.
- **School sponsored event**: any activity organized or sanctioned by the district.

31aa—Reporting



- The annual expense report for **all** FY27 31aa funds will be due July 1, 2027.
- The report will be housed in NexSys.
  - The report will be completed by amending the original application submitted in Fall 2026.
  - The report will include:
    - A description of how the funds were spent.
    - The ability to request an additional year to fully expend the funds (extending the deadline to 9/30/28).
- If funds are determined to have been misused, the recipient will need to reimburse the Department for the amount of state funding misused.

31aa—Reporting (2)



- Moving forward, any funds reported as carryover will be expected to be included in the next fiscal year's reporting cycle.
  - Reporting on the carried over funds will be reported on the prior fiscal year's application. (i.e., Carry over from FY27 funds will be reported on the original FY27 application, carryover from FY28 funds will be reported on the FY28 application.)
- Please be aware that failure to complete the legislatively required reporting may impact future fiscal year awards.

How to Receive Funding



To receive FY27 31aa funding:

- Subsection 2: Funds will be made available after recipients agree to use funds only for allowable expenses and agree to submit the annual expense report in NexSys.
- Subsection 3: Eligible recipients will need to agree to all requirements in NexSys.
- The deadline to apply for the first round of funding will be Monday, **November 9, 2026, at 5:00 pm.**
- **MDE anticipates that the application for both subsections will be available in NexSys beginning in mid-October.**

31aa Applications (1 of 3)



- Both applications for Subsections 2 and 3 will be housed in NexSys.
- There will be separate submissions for each subsection.
  - To initially apply for funding, please follow the steps below:
    - Confirm that the entity would like to receive funds.
    - Complete the certifications:
      - completing the legislatively required FER
      - allowable expenses
      - unallowable expenses, and
      - agreeing to a comprehensive investigation (Safety Funds only)

31aa Applications (2 of 3)



- BUDGET INSTRUCTIONS:
  - Allocations will be uploaded in the system for each entity.
  - For the initial submission (applying) entities should ONLY have one budget line
    - The budget line should be “District is opting to receive these funds”
    - Any submission with more than one line, or a line that does not match, “District is opting to receive these funds” will not be reviewed and will be returned for modifications.*

***This will delay funds being disbursed to the entity**

31aa Applications (3 of 3)



- This application will function as the FER in the spring.
- In May 2027, all applications will be returned to entities.
  - For the FER, entities will then add additional budget lines outlining how the funds were spent.
  - This will also be how entities will request carryover. There will be a specific expense option for carryover.
  - This process will keep the application and the FER in the same system and limit the number of submissions needed for each entity.

31aa Payment Schedule (1 of 2)



- There will be a series of application windows to allow entities to consult with their legal counsel should they wish to do so.
- Entities will only be allowed to apply once and will only receive payment one time.
  - Each entity has a cap, set in legislation, that they can receive.
  - These funds will be held until requested.
- The windows will allow MDE to disburse funds in a timely manner.

31aa Payment Schedule (2 of 2)



- **Window 1**: Districts must apply by November 9, 2026, to receive funds in the December State Aid payment.**
- **Window 2:** Districts must apply by December 7, 2026, to receive funds in the January State Aid payment.
- **Window 3**: Districts must apply by January 4, 2027, to receive funds in the February State Aid payment.
- **Window 4:** Districts must apply by April 12, 2027, to receive funds in the May State Aid payment.

- The final window will be Window 4 so recipients can report how funds were spent in the legislatively required final expense report due July 1, 2027.
- All deadlines will be 5 pm Eastern Time on the date listed above.
- An entity can only apply ONCE.

**The date in November may be adjusted based on when the application is finalized and made available to complete.

Allowable Expenses for Mental Health Initiatives (1 of 3)



- Hiring or contracting for support staff for student mental health needs
  - Psychologists
  - Social workers—Bachelor's or Master's Level
  - Counselors
  - Nurses
  - Community Health Workers
  - Marriage and Family Therapists
- For support staff positions not on this list, please contact the program office for clarification.

Allowable Expenses for Mental Health Initiatives (2 of 3)



- 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
- Purchasing and implementing an online behavioral health tool moderated and led by licensed behavioral health professionals

Allowable Expenses for Mental Health Initiatives (3 of 3)



- Hiring or contracting a behavioral health coordinator
- 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
- Implementing cell-phone-free school policies
- Purchasing and implementing an evidence-based character- and relationship-building education program that includes family engagement, service learning, and project-based character development, and that fosters positive student-educator relationships and whole-school culture

Allowable Expenses for School Safety Initiatives (1 of 4)



- 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*
- Age-appropriate training for students and families on responsible firearm ownership, including safe handling and safe storage*

****These are the only allowable school safety trainings with these funds.**

Allowable Expenses for School Safety Initiatives (2 of 4)



- 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
- 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**

Allowable Expenses for School Safety Initiatives (3 of 4)



- 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
- 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:
  - Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) templates
  - EOP guidance
  - Reference documents
  - Security assessments

Allowable Expenses for School Safety Initiatives (4 of 4)



- 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.
- A contract with a vendor for a comprehensive safety and security assessment or safety and security event assessment
- An emergency response system

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—i.e., parking lots, restroom renovations, etc.
- 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.
  - **The earliest payment to non-public schools will be in January 2027, when we have current pupil counts for the current academic year.**
  - The amount in the system is an estimate based on last year's count. Once we receive the current year's counts, we will update award amounts and send it back for updating.
- 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.

Best Practices and Reminders (1 of 3)



- Each fiscal year award should be kept separate for accounting purposes.
  - Each year has different allowable expenses, restrictions, and grant end dates.
  - FY26 carryover funds can continue to be used on FY26 allowable costs, but please refer to slide 25 for unallowable expenses in FY27.
    - 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.
  - Funds must still follow the requirements of the year in which they were awarded.
- If any funds are remaining from FY25 (SY24/25), the final expenditure date is September 30, 2026, 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.

Best Practices and Reminders (2 of 3)



- The grant period for using FY 27 31aa funds can cover expenses beginning on October 1, 2026.
  - Grant funds cannot be used for expenses prior to October 1, 2026.
- Questions about funds within the State School Aid budget should 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.

Best Practices and Reminders (3 of 3)



- Please make sure that the Educational Entity Master (EEM) includes an active contact.
  - The active 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 (1 of 2)



- Funds from FY 23-24 must be expended by September 30, 2026.
  - 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.
  - ISDs can reallocate funds to constituent districts within the boundaries of their ISD.
- Recipients of 31n(6) funds shall continue to seek federal Medicaid match funding for all eligible mental health and support services.
  - Funding is for ALL students, not just Medicaid-eligible students.

31n Funding (2 of 2)



- **NEW THIS YEAR:** ISDs must apply for the 31n(6) base amount of $1,003,100 per ISD **AND** per pupil allocation in NexSys before funds will be allocated.
- The 31n(6) per pupil allocation is once again estimated to be around $22 per pupil but will no longer automatically be sent out with first State Aid payments in October.
- The 31n(12) allocation for FY 27 will be the same as FY 25 and FY 26, 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 (1 of 2)



- There were slight changes to the FY 27 31n boilerplate language.
  - ISDs must apply for the 31n(6) base amount of $1,003,100 per ISD **AND** per pupil allocation in NexSys.
  - Section 31n(6)-funded behavioral health providers may now provide services to students enrolled in a Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) (32d) or Strong Beginnings Program (32t).
    - This expands eligibility beyond students in kindergarten through grade 12 to include children participating in GSRP or Strong Beginnings.
    - Because the Section 31n(15) boilerplate language does not make this expanded eligibility applicable to prior fiscal years, only FY 27 Section 31n(6) funds may be used to provide services to Pre-K students enrolled in GSRP or Strong Beginnings.

31n Boilerplate Language (2 of 2)



- **<u>With approval</u>**, 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 and Pre-K Students



- 31n(15): As used in this section, "general education pupil" includes children served under sections 32d (GSRP) and 32t (Strong Beginnings).
- 31n(6)-funded providers can deliver services to students in classrooms that have a blend of both GSRP and Head Start students.
- 31n(6)-funded providers can NOT deliver services to students in classrooms that have only Head Start students.
- At this time, existing program structures, referral processes, and service delivery models do not need to be modified.
- ISDs and LEAs may continue to implement their current referral and service delivery processes, providing services to GSRP and Strong Beginnings students as local capacity allows.
- Districts should continue to prioritize services based on local needs, available staffing, and established referral pathways.

31n Applications



- FY 27 applications will be available in NexSys **around November 1, 2026**, 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
- Chris Robinson: RobinsonC15@michigan.gov

31p

31p Funding (1 of 2)



- This section is amended effective October 1, 2026.
- FY 27 boilerplate language does not name a specific program.
- For FY 27, there is a total of $3 million allocated from the school aid fund and grants will be awarded on an equal amount to each ISD with an approved grant application.
- ISDs must forward the entire amount they are awarded to the program that will provide the training.

31p Funding (2 of 2)



- Applications are **expected** to open in NexSys Monday, November 16, 2026, and close Monday, January 4, 2027.
- The ISD must certify that the program will improve youth access to evidence-based mental health services by training school mental health professionals in effective practices, such as cognitive behavioral therapy and mindfulness.
- The ISD must certify that the selected program can be implemented on a statewide basis.
- The ISD must certify that all funding they receive under this section will be forwarded to the program they select.

Frequently Asked Questions (1 of 3)



- Where will we request funding for each of these sections?
  - 31aa—Applications will be housed in NexSys.
  - 31n—Applications will be housed in NexSys.
  - 31p—Applications will be housed in NexSys.

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Frequently Asked Questions (2 of 3)



When can we expect funds to be available for these sections?

- 31n allocations will be reflected in State Aid Status Report by February 1, 2027.
- 31p allocations will likely be reflected in March 2027 State Aid Status Report.
- Funds for 31aa, Subsections 2 and 3, will be disbursed in a rolling manner, based on when entities complete the applications.

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Frequently Asked Questions (3 of 3)

When does this funding end?

- Section 31aa: Subsection 2 and 3 grant period of 10/1/2026 - 9/30/2027
  - Can request one year of carryover
- Section 31n: grant period of 10/1/2026 - 9/30/2027
  - Unexpended funds can automatically be carried forward to 9/30/2029
- Section 31p: grant period of 10/1/2026-9/30/2027
  - Services can be received through 9/30/2028



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Questions?



Please direct your questions to:

- For 31aa: MDE-31aa@Michigan.gov
- For 31n, your ISD's assigned 31n Consultant:
  - HutchisonM1@Michigan.gov
  - RobinsonC15@Michigan.gov
- For 31p: MDE-OHS@Michigan.gov

To access the full State School Aid Act for these two sections, please visit:

- Section 31n
- Section 31aa
- Section 31p

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