

# Section 31a: What's new? What should you know?

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Michigan Department of Education



# Agenda

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Section 31a Intent & Purpose

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Grant Requirements

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Student Eligibility

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2025-2026 Legislative Updates

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1, 2, 3's of Section 31a

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# What is Section 31a?

Section 31a is...

- A categorical grant in State School Aid Act
- Annually reviewed/renewed
- Intended to meet the additional needs of eligible students
- Defined in law with these subsections:
  - Intent & Purpose
  - Grant requirements
  - Allowable uses
  - Eligibility
  - Reporting and monitoring requirements
- Resource: [MDE Section 31a At-risk Website](#)



# Intent and Purpose

Students will demonstrate...

- proficiency in English language arts by grade 3,
- proficiency in math by grade 8,
- career and college readiness by high school graduation, and
- will attend school regularly.

Section 31a(1)



# Requirements

- K-12 Literacy & Dyslexia Laws (MCL 380.1280f)
- Early Literacy & Numeracy resources
- K-12 Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) with Fidelity
- School Breakfast Program Supplement
- Section 31a Annual Program & Fiscal Report (APFR)
  - Complete and submit by July 15<sup>th</sup> annually
- Allow access to district records for Section 31a auditing/program monitoring

Section 31a(2)(6)(9)(10)

# Eligible Students

“At-risk pupil” means a pupil in grades Prekindergarten to 12 for whom the district has documentation that the pupil meets **any** of the following criteria:

- At-risk Eligibility Criteria
- **Economically Disadvantaged (ED)\***
- **English learner**
- Chronically absent
- Victim of child abuse or neglect
- Pregnant teenager or teenage parent
- Family history of school failure, incarceration, or substance abuse
- **An immigrant who has immigrated within the immediately preceding 3 years\***
- did not complete HS in 4 years, continuing in school
- Did not achieve proficiency on State summative assessments
- At risk of not meeting the LEA’s local objectives in ELA or math as demonstrated on local assessments

Section 31a(24)



# FY26 (2025-2026) Legislative Changes

- Standard Section 31a **grant increased** by 24.99% to \$1,293,655,000
- **Year 2 of Expanded Use of Funds** for eligible districts and/or schools
  - Subsection(14)(a) Teacher to Student ratio reduction for grades K-3
    - **Update 2025-2026:** Includes all buildings serving any grade Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade
  - Subsection (14)(b) Recruitment & retention to prevent turnover and eliminate vacancies
    - **Update 2025-2026:** Includes districts in Opportunity Index Bands 4, 5, and 6
- **New Section 31a Annual District Transparency Report** for parents and caregivers about the Section 31a At-risk grant that includes:
  - Amount of allocation
  - Evidence-based interventions and supports implemented with funding during the grant cycle
  - Methodology & decision-making for distributing At-risk funds to buildings with the highest needs
  - Description of processes to provide feedback on the use of Section 31a funding and to seek more information about Section 31a funded services and interventions available for their child, and
  - Section 31a district contract information



# 1, 2, 3's of Section 31a



# Year 1 of Implementation:

Section 31a Annual District Transparency Report



# Section 31a Annual District Transparency Report Legislative Requirements

## Report must include...

### Fiscal & Program Implementation Transparency

### Parent Input & Engagement

**Amount of Section 31a allocation**

**Methodology of distributing funds to target buildings with the highest needs**

**Evidence-based interventions and supports implemented**

**Who is the district contact regarding Section 31a programming?**

**What is the process to provide feedback on the use of Section 31a funding?**

**How to seek more information about Section 31a services and interventions available?**

Section 31a(17)



# District Transparency Report Template

## Key Considerations:

- How has your district begun discussions about completing this report?
- Discuss how your district will share the report with parents and guardians.
- Where will it be posted on the district website?

**MICHIGAN**  
Department of Education

*FY26 Section 31a  
Annual District  
Transparency Report*

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1. What was the total amount of the district's Section 31a allocation for the 2025-2026 school year?  
Click or tap here to enter text.
2. What evidence-based interventions and supports were implemented with the Section 31a At-risk grant funds during the 2025-2026 grant cycle?  
Click or tap here to enter text.
3. Describe the district's methodology and decision-making for distributing the Section 31a At-risk grant funds to target the buildings with the highest needs.  
Click or tap here to enter text.
4. In what ways has the district collected feedback from parents/caregivers on supports provided this year?  
Click or tap here to enter text.
5. Please include the following contact information for your district for Section 31a.

For more information about the Section 31a services and interventions available for your child(ren) contact: {Enter district contact}.

To provide feedback or for more information on the use of the Section 31a funding for the 2025-2026 school year contact: {Enter district contact}.

For additional questions regarding the Section 31a At-risk grant contact: {Enter district contact}.



# Year 2 of Implementation

Expanded Use of Funds for Eligible Districts

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Section 31a(14) Intent to Use Report



# Expanded Use of Funds for Eligible Districts

## Reduce Teacher-to-Student Ratio for K-3

[Section 31a(14)(a)]

- **Purpose:** Reduce K-3 Teacher to Student ratios
- Eligible schools serving grades K-3
- May use up to 30% of fund

## Recruitment & Retention

[Section 31a(14)(b)]

- **Purpose:** Retention and recruitment to reduce instructional and support staff turnover & vacancies
- Section 31a defines eligible districts as having an Opportunity Index Score that are in Bands 4, 5 & 6
- May use up to 30% of funds

Section 31a(14)



# Expanded Use of Funds: Requirements for Implementation

- **Subsection 15: Expanded use of funds must:**
  - Align to the needs assessment and MTSS model.
  - Not include administrative costs.
  - Not supplant existing funding including maintaining salaries or costs.
  - Districts using subsection 14 provisions will report to MDE no later than November 1 the intent to use Section 31a(14) provision(s).
- **Subsection 16: Three Fiscal Years**
  - Districts that use the subsection 14 provisions may use Section 31a(14) expanded use of funds for 3 fiscal years including initial eligible year plus 2 fiscal years.



# Section 31a(14) Intent to Use Report

- Located in NexSys
- Due annually by November 1<sup>st</sup>
- Indicates plan for expanded use-not an obligation
- Modifications or clarification may be needed
- Final status is 'Report Accepted' when eligibility and plan is approved

Forms	
<a href="#">Cover Page</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assurances and Certifications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Important Information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Program Information	
<a href="#">Section 31a(14)(a)</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<a href="#">Section 31a(14)(b)</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Attachments	
<a href="#">Attachments</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



# Year 3 of implementation

Opportunity Index (OI) Band Allocation Formula



# Section 31a Allocation & Legislative Formula

## Allocation Provisions

- **Subsection 3(a-d):**  
Allocation Formula
- **Subsection 4:**  
Opportunity Index
- **Subsection 19:** Proration
- **Subsection 20:**  
Dissolving Districts

Fiscal Year (School Year)	Section 31a At-risk Grant Statewide Allocation	Percent Increase
FY17	\$378,988,200	--
FY18	\$499,000,000	+32.0%
FY19	\$499,000,000	0%
FY20	\$510,000,000	+2.2%
FY21	\$510,000,000	0%
FY22	\$512,500,000	+0.5%
FY23	\$747,500,000	+46.0%
FY24	\$952,000,000	+27.0%
FY25	\$1,034,924,000	+8.7%
FY26	\$1,293,655,000	+24.99%



# Section 31a(4) Opportunity Index (OI) Bands

<b>BAND</b>	<b>OI SCORE MINIMUM</b>	<b>OI SCORE MAXIMUM</b>	<b>AT-RISK OI WEIGHT (MULTIPLIER)</b>
1	0	19	35.00%-35.99%
2	20	43	36.00%-37.49%
3	44	58	37.50%-38.99%
4	59	72	39.00%-41.99%
5	73	84	42.00%-46.99%
6	85	100+	47.00%



# Sample of District FY26 Section 31a Allocations

Band	District	Foundation Allowance (per pupil)	Opportunity Index (OI) Score (Section 31a Economically Disadvantage Count/Total Pupil Count)	ED Student Count	OI Percent (New Multiplier)	Eligible Amount	Prorated Effective Weight	Final Prorated Allocation Amount
1	District A	10,050	9	213	35.3684%	\$ 757,113.65	16.1509%	\$ 345,733.86
1	District B	10,050	17	1,357	35.8421%	\$ 4,888,091.83	16.3672%	\$ 2,232,133.67
2	District C	10,050	23	46	36.1875%	\$ 167,294.81	16.5249%	\$ 76,394.71
2	District D	10,050	43	1,131	37.4375%	\$ 4,255,352.16	17.0957%	\$ 1,943,194.85
3	District E	10,050	46	505	37.7000%	\$ 1,913,369.25	17.2156%	\$ 873,734.80
3	District F	10,050	58	52	38.9000%	\$ 203,291.40	17.7636%	\$ 92,832.46
4	District G	10,050	59	99	39.0000%	\$ 388,030.50	17.8092%	\$ 177,193.06
4	District H	10,050	72	1,395	41.7857%	\$ 5,858,250.68	19.0813%	\$ 2,675,154.04
5	District I	10,050	73	154	42.0000%	\$ 650,034.00	19.1792%	\$ 296,836.24
5	District J	10,050	83	2,500	46.1666%	\$ 11,599,358.25	21.0819%	\$ 5,296,815.00
6	District K	10050	86	2,983	47.0000%	\$ 14,090,200.50	21.4624%	\$ 6,434,251.26
6	District L	10050	108	59	47.0000%	\$ 278,686.50	21.46242%	\$ 127,261.42

Target Foundation Allowance = \$10,050 (up from 9,608 in 2024-2025 school year)  
 Section 31a Proration Rate = 45.65% (up from 35.14% in August 2025)

# Section 31a Allocation Resources



## MDE OES State & Federal Program Allocation Website

## Office of State Aid & School Finance Website

- [State School Aid Update](#)
  - Monthly Newsletter
- [State Aid Financial Status Reports](#)
  - Monthly state aid fiscal report that outlines the target foundation allowance and state categorical grant payments by ISD and district
- [MDE State Aid Payment Information website](#)
  - Including the [2025-2026 At-Risk Estimates spreadsheet](#)

**STATE SCHOOL AID UPDATE** Michigan Department of Education **MICHIGAN** Education **March 2026** Vol. 34 No. 6

**MARCH PAYMENT INFORMATION**  
 The March state school aid payment is the sixth regular payment of the 2026 fiscal year. The payment will be electronically transmitted to district accounts on Friday, March 20, 2026.  
**Taxable value** figures used in the calculation of the Section 20 and Section 22a state per pupil amounts are the initial tax year 2025 figures provided by the county treasurers via the web-based reporting system as of 3/2/26. These data can be viewed by school district personnel on the [Department's website](#). To view your data, enter your district code and choose the applicable tax year from the drop down menu. **Questions concerning the taxable value figures should first be directed to the appropriate county treasurer.**

**Pupil Membership** - October 2025 pupil count data (audited for most districts) and audited February 2025 counts as of 2/25/26 were used in the calculation of the blended membership count for the March payment used to calculate **Section 20 Foundation** allowances.

**EXECUTIVE BUDGET RECOMMENDATION FOR 2026-2027 SCHOOL AID**  
 On February 11, 2026, Governor Whitmer's Executive Budget Recommendation for FY 2027 was presented to the legislature. The following are some highlights of the K-12 budget portion of the Governor's proposal.

- The per pupil **Foundation Grants for FY 2027** would increase by \$250, from \$10,050 to

Office of Educational Supports  
 Section 31a At-Risk  
 2025-26 Estimated Allocations  
 March 2026

Created 10/20/2025 Number of Districts is 824/Maximum Foundation Allowance is \$10,050 Updated 03/20/2026

Agency Code	Agency Name	Calculation Foundation Allowance	October 2024 Free and Reduced Lunch Counts	Estimated Allocation
39903	Oakland Academy	\$10,050	55	\$93,485
39905	Paramount Charter Academy	\$10,050	355	\$765,197
39906	Youth Advancement Academy	\$10,050	17	\$312,643
39911	Kalamazoo Prep Academy	\$10,050	159	\$312,338
40020	Forest Area Community Schools	\$10,050	267	\$471,432
40040	Kalkaska Public Schools	\$10,050	754	\$1,338,225
40060	Eastland Township Schools	\$10,050	1	\$10,050

The 2025-2026 Estimated Section 31a At-Risk spreadsheet will be available at the end of October on the MDE OES Program Allocations website. The allocation report will be updated monthly throughout the grant cycle.

**STATE OF MICHIGAN**  
 2025-2026 State Aid Financial Status Report  
 Payment Dated: 04/20/2026

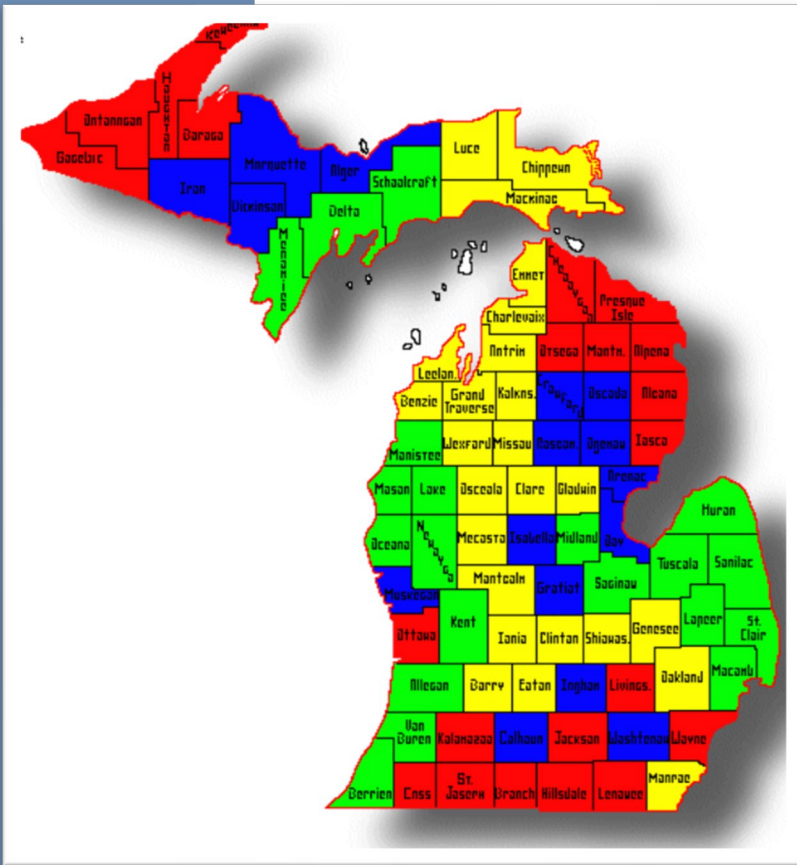
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Y	District Code	District Name	Foundation	ID	FY	ES	OScore	AWeight	Send	Eligible	Fundred	Payment	Eligible
			Counts		Percentage					Amount	Amount	Per Student	Wgt
25	00010	Alcona Community Schools	10,000	150	570.87	70.92	76	43.7000	Send 1	2,342,650.00	1,024,190.00	1,964.87	18.97
25	00010	Alcona Community Schools	10,000	9	26.97	28.61	29	38.9625	Send 2	22,647.00	15,087.79	1,877.87	16.7
25	00010	Alcona Community Schools	10,000	39	31.64	54.81	37	38.8000	Send 3	74,694.00	33,832.34	1,766.86	17.7
25	00010	Alcona Community Schools	10,000	204	164.24	46.8	47	37.8000	Send 3	1,002,909.00	451,875.35	1,734.76	17.2
25	00010	Alcona Community Schools	10,000	172	327.26	32.48	33	38.8000	Send 3	683,782.00	303,514.61	1,762.39	18.0
25	00010	Alcona Community Schools	10,000	487	2,026.68	37.77	34	38.8700	Send 3	3,287,394.58	1,503,075.34	1,892.31	18.8
25	00010	Alcona Community Schools	10,000	441	2,356.69	48.61	42	37.0700	Send 2	3,036,361.00	1,414,778.48	1,712.50	17.6
25	00010	Alcona Community Schools	10,000	1,209	2,035.07	63.31	64	49.0700	Send 4	3,191,029.45	1,375,498.32	1,809.00	18.0
25	00010	Alcona Community Schools	10,000	1,148	2,793.95	41.82	42	37.0700	Send 2	4,283,051.76	1,986,368.88	1,712.50	17.6
25	00010	Alcona Community Schools	10,000	1,728	1,216.31	79.75	80	44.9000	Send 4	4,378,094.75	1,999,138.98	2,061.36	20.5
25	00010	Alcona Community Schools	10,000	399	421.30	46.34	47	37.0900	Send 3	1,097,862.30	505,244.00	1,754.76	17.2
25	00010	Alcona Community Schools	10,000	464	1,623.34	33.59	33	38.8125	Send 3	1,716,643.50	781,009.18	1,698.64	16.8
25	00010	Alcona Community Schools	10,000	265	463.31	30.59	30	38.8125	Send 3	985,465.81	447,761.20	1,698.64	16.8
25	00010	Alcona Community Schools	10,000	759	2,907.20	26.11	27	36.4200	Send 2	2,779,654.20	1,263,221.01	1,672.23	16.6
25	00010	Alcona Community Schools	10,000	10	46.36	26.76	25	36.5225	Send 2	36,494.00	16,664.25	1,666.69	16.5
25	00010	Alcona Community Schools	10,000	77	300.45	76.86	77	61.6600	Send 1	337,913.84	154,207.48	1,603.00	15.8





# Regionalization of Services: Section 31a Single Point of Contracts



**Dawn Carmody**



**Suzanne Grambush**



**Stephanie Holmes-Webster**



**Joan Jackson Cabrales**



# Section 31a Team Contact Information

## **Office of Educational Supports**

Special Populations Unit, Phone Number: (517) 241.6977

Section 31a General Mailbox, [MDE-Section31a@Michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-Section31a@Michigan.gov)

## **Manager, Special Populations Unit**

Michelle Williams, [WilliamsM48@Michigan.gov](mailto:WilliamsM48@Michigan.gov)

## **Section 31a, MTSS, and Early Literacy Consultants**

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## **Title I, Part D-Neglected & Delinquent, Section 31a**

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