TO: MSBO – ISD Committee
FROM: Jerry Johnson, Assistant Superintendent for Legislation and Education Policy
RE: Legislative Update
DATE: February 21, 2019

**Education Funding**

Recently, there has been additional attention given to the condition of education funding in Michigan. A new study from Michigan State University suggests, the effectiveness of Michigan’s school funding has seriously eroded since voters approved property tax and finance Proposal A in 1994. While property taxes have lowered and revenue inequality has been somewhat reduced, the state has not adjusted funding levels to meet the numerous changing education standards such as No Child Left Behind, the Michigan Merit Curriculum, and Michigan’s 3rd Grade Reading Law, just to name a few.

Two significant factors in the weakening funding for schools is that school funding has not kept up with inflation, and substantial School Aid Fund resources have been diverted to other expenditures. Counting the 2019 fiscal year, nearly $2 billion from the school aid fund has been diverted to universities since 2009, and approximately $2.5 billion has been diverted to community colleges.

The study also points to low special education funding and no state funding dedicated to investments in school facilities, which results in facility upgrades being funded by taxpayers at the local level. This means good facilities and learning experiences are distributed unequally across affluent and economically disadvantaged communities throughout the state.


**Recently Introduced Bills**

**SB13 & SB17 – Individual income tax** – The bill would eliminate the income tax on retirement or pension benefits based on taxpayer’s age.

**SB25 – State Board of Education** – The bill requires members of the State Board of Education to be selected by each political party from eight regions in the state. There is a staggered implementation beginning in 2020 through 2026

**SB41 – Teacher Training** – The bill adds mental health training within the requirement for teacher continuing education and professional development.
SB72 – Student Records – The bill prohibits MDE, CEPI, schools, and education management organizations from disclosing records to parents when disclosure is prohibited by a personal protection order under the Address Confidentiality Program Act.

SB90-SB102 – Juvenile Criminal Procedure – The bills modify numerous statutes regarding the age of juvenile offender programs and services to age 18. The package of bills is commonly referred to as “Raise The Age.”

SB103 – Administrative Procedure – The bill eliminates the prohibition for state agencies to adopt rules more stringent than federal regulations.

SB106 – Tobacco Retail Sales – The bill prohibits the sale of electronic cigarettes or any oral device that provides vapor nicotine to minors. The bill also requires sellers of liquid nicotine containers to ensure that the products meet certain requirements.

SB113 – Inclement Weather – The bill provides an exception to the requirement for minimum days of pupil instruction due to inclement weather.

HB4006 – Individual income tax – The bill would eliminate the income tax on retirement or pension benefits based on taxpayer’s age.

HB4017 – Tobacco Retail Sales – The bill would prohibit sale of electronic cigarette or any oral device that provides vapor nicotine to minors.

HB4020 – Weapons – The bill would allow for the purchase and possession of stun guns for individuals over age 21.

HB4021 – Weapons – The bill would establish a lifetime concealed pistol license.

HB4026 – Weapons – The bill would require a concealed pistol license for individuals to carry concealed pistols in pistol-free zones.

HB4029 – Crimes – The bill would eliminate the prohibition on carrying a concealed pistol.

HB4039 – Tobacco – The bill establishes the Youth Tobacco Act and prohibits selling, giving, or furnishing tobacco products or tobacco paraphernalia to individuals under 21. The bill also repeals the prohibition of the purchase, possession, or use of tobacco products by minors.

HB4054 – School Counselors – The bill establishes the minimum number of school counselors to be employed by a school district, intermediate school district, or public school academy at a ratio of one counselor for every 450 students.

HB4059 – Education – The bill would provide for an excused absence from public school for the purpose of sounding "Taps" at a military honor funeral for a deceased veteran.

HB4066 & HB4067 – Fire Alarm – The bill exempts the requirement for a manual fire alarm box in schools under certain circumstances.

HB4070 – Vehicle Fund-Raising Plates – The bill creates a fund-raising registration plate for "I Support Public Schools" and earmarks revenue into the school aid fund.

HB4071 – Kindergarten Attendance – The bill makes the attendance requirement for kindergarten compulsory.

HB4075 – Sinking Funds – The bill expands the permissible use of sinking funds to include school bus purchasing.

HB4086 – Retirement – The bill modifies computing retirement allowance based on employee organization professional services leave or released time.

HB4087 – School Start – The bill eliminates the post-Labor Day school start requirement and prohibits school from being in session on any Monday or Friday in August, including the Friday immediately prior to Labor Day.

HB4088 – ISD Boards – The bill requires the popular election of intermediate school board members.

HB4133-HB4146 – Juvenile Criminal Procedure – The bills modify numerous statutes regarding the age of juvenile offender programs and services to age 18. The package of bills is commonly referred to as “Raise The Age.”

HB4162 – Education Assessment – The bill establishes a prohibition such that MDE shall not require the administration of an assessment that assesses a pupil’s ability to apply reading and mathematics skills in a manner that is intended to allow employers to use the results in making employment decisions.

HB4174 – Occupational Schools – The bill exempts certain apprenticeship programs from occupational school regulations.

HB4195 – Professional Development – The bill requires school districts to provide training related to student disclosures about assaults and to have a policy regarding sexual abuse.

HB4206 – Snow Days – The bill provides an exception to the minimum days of pupil instruction for school district closure during a declared state of emergency.

HB4207 – Teacher Evaluation – The bill prohibits a limit on the number of teachers rated as highly effective.


HB4216 – Bullying Prevention – The bill requires instruction on bullying prevention for teaching certification.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE ROSTERS

Since the Senate and House formally announced the committee membership lists for the 2019-2020 Legislative Session, I have updated the Education Committee rosters. The picture directory for the Senate and House Education Policy Committees and Appropriations Subcommittees are attached for your information.

HOUSE REPUBLICAN ACTION PLAN

The Republican Caucus in the House of Representatives recently released the policy priorities for the 2019-2020 Legislative Session. The continuing theme that is woven through the majority party action plan is “Continuing Michigan’s momentum and building a better state not only for today, but for our kids and grandkids.” The action plan is available at: http://gophouse.org/leading-the-way/

UPCOMING DATES

March 5, 2019 – Executive Budget Recommendations
**MI SENATE EDUCATION-RELATED COMMITTEES**

**Effective: January 1, 2019**

### Senate Education & Career Readiness Committee

**Senator Jon Bumstead**  
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Email: senjbumstead@senate.michigan.gov  
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**Senator Dayna Polehanki** – Minority Vice Chair  
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**Senator Kevin Daley**  
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**Senator Jim Runestad**  
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**Senator Erika Geiss**  
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**Senator Lana Theis** – Chair  
MI Senate – 25th District  
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Fax: (517) 373-2764  
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**Senator Ken Horn** – Vice Chair  
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Fax: (517) 373-3487  
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**NOTE:**

*The physical location of the Connie Binsfeld Building is:*

201 Townsend Street  
Lansing, MI 48933

*All mail for Senators should be addressed to:*

PO Box 30036  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536

Prepared by Calhoun Intermediate School District  
Legislation and Education Policy  
Updated 1/25/2019: JDJ
NOTE:
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<th>Representative Pamela Hornberger – Chair</th>
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<td>MI House of Representatives – 23rd District</td>
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<td>N-796 House Office Building</td>
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<th>Representative Matt Koleszar</th>
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<td>N-793 House Office Building</td>
<td>N-699 House Office Building</td>
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<th>Representative Jack O’Malley</th>
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Effective: January 1, 2019

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