



Legislative Alert



August 14, 2020

Tonight, we were briefed on the legislation that will be before the Senate tomorrow morning for a vote regarding the Return to School Legislation. We have not yet seen the bills to have all the details but wanted to share the information we have so far.

The agreement was reached by Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey (R-Clarklake), Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich (D-Flint), Speaker Lee Chatfield (R-Levering), House Minority Leader Christine Greig (D-Farmington Hills) and Gov. Whitmer's Executive Office late Friday afternoon. The details are not expected until later tonight.

This afternoon [MASA, MASB and MAISA sent a letter to the Legislature](#) urging them to include stakeholders in the conversations and deliberations and to slow this process down.

Unfortunately, this did not happen and this plan raises a lot of concerns.

It includes five major issue areas: membership count, days and hours, benchmark assessments, academic goals and extended continuation of learning plans.

Membership Count will be a blend of 75% of last year's pupil count and 25% of this year's pupil count. In order to count a student, there would need to be one two-way interaction a week for four weeks.

The 180 days and 1,098 hours requirement would be waived; however, a district would have to show that it is providing the same level of instruction to meet the course content as it would in a nonpandemic year.

Benchmark assessments would be required twice - once in the first nine weeks of school and another in the spring. Data would have to be reported, however, only statewide data would be made available to the legislature.

Academic goals would have to be created and adopted by the school board by Sept. 15, 2020. They would need to be posted on the website.

Finally, an extended continuation of learning plan would need to be adopted. This is separate from the COVID preparedness plan recently adopted. The new plan would need to be adopted by Oct. 1, 2020, and include a description of how instruction will be delivered; how all students will be exposed to content standards; ensure equitable access to technology or materials for all students; a description of how instruction for students with disabilities will be handled; and the health department guidelines that will be used to make decisions. This plan will have to be reviewed and reaffirmed every 30 days.

As mentioned, we don't have the finer details yet but have grave concerns with this as outlined. We urge you to contact your lawmakers and tell them to go back to the drawing board on this proposal. The plan is convoluted and includes many time-consuming requirements for boards, educators and students at a time when they need to be focused on how to deliver education

during this crisis.