

MANDATE REIMBURSEMENT

The Michigan Supreme Court denied Governor Snyder request for an advisory opinion on the constitutionality of a \$2.5 million appropriation to reimburse non-public schools for state imposed health and safety mandates. The Court was not convinced that this question deserves its attention (i.e., under the Constitution, advisory opinions are only issued when “important questions of law upon solemn occasions as to the constitutionality of legislation” are at issue. Here they are saying this isn’t an “important question”... at least at this juncture. The issue had been briefed by several interested parties, including MANS.

There is a threat of a lawsuit by opponents of the funding. Currently, the law remains in effect. MDE has to prepare forms for schools to use to apply for the funds. MANS will begin the process of meeting with MDE to develop parameters/forms for the reimbursement process. These forms must be returned to the state by June 15, 2017. Funds can be released to non-public schools by August 15, 2017.