

I. FY 2017-18 K-12 Budget

A Conference Committee on the K-12 budget came to an agreement on spending for the 2017-18 fiscal year. MANS has three items of interest in the budget that now goes to both chambers and then onto the Governor for signature.

Reimbursement for State Health and Safety Mandates:

The Joint Conference Committee added \$2,500,000 to the K-12 budget to reimburse nonpublic schools on complying with state health and safety mandates. Significant changes to the language added to the FY 2017-18 budget include:

- Requires MDE to publish the form with each health, safety, or welfare requirement with a reference to the relevant statute or administrative rule, or both, by January 1, 2018.
- Schools have until June 30th to apply for reimbursement.
- Provides that the cost of taking daily attendance shall be considered an actual cost.
- Training fees, inspection fees and criminal background check fees are considered actual costs and eligible for reimbursement.
- Establishes a work project for any unexpended FY 2016-17 funds.

Shared Time:

Funding: For the 2017-18 fiscal year a .75 FTE cap will be in place on K-12 shared time pupils. This will be the most a public school district can collect on a part-time public school student attending a nonpublic school or home-schooled. The .75 FTE cap will save the state \$2,000,000 on shared time. \$58,000,000 of the proposed cut in the Governor's budget has been restored to K-12 funding.

MANS expressed concerns with any cap as it sets a potential target for legislators to ratchet down in future years. It is the hope of the legislature that this cap will end the efforts of the Governor's office to reduce shared time funding, which it has attempted to do the last two years.

Additional Definitions:

- Deletes requirement that a nonessential course be provided during regular school hours.
- A nonessential course in grades K-8 is a course other than mathematics, science, social studies, and English language arts. Nonessential courses in grades 9-12 are those other than Algebra 1, Algebra 2, English 9-12, geometry, biology, chemistry, physics, economics, geography, American history, Western history, the constitution, and government, or courses that fulfill the same credit requirement as these courses.
- Nonessential elective courses include courses offered by the local district for high school credit that are also capable of generating postsecondary credit, including but not limited to advanced placement and international baccalaureate courses. College level courses taken by high school students for college credit are nonessential courses. Remedial courses for any grade in the above listed essential courses are considered essential.

FIRST Robotics Program:

Nonpublic schools have been added as eligible grantees for the FIRST Robotics and Science Olympiad programs. There will be \$300,000 in the general fund portion of the K-12 budget that can be applied for by interested schools in FY 2017-18.