May 17, 2024

Legislative Update

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School Aid Budgets Finalized Ahead of Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference

With the Senate's passage of its School Aid budget (**Senate Bill 751**) on May 15, both chambers have now passed their respective fiscal year 2025 budget bills.

Next in the annual budget process is the May 17th **Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference**. A forecast of state revenues will be agreed to at the conference, after which the Legislature will set new targets for their budgets. This will be followed by the appointment of conference committees, where points of difference between the proposals will be negotiated.

The Consensus Estimating Revenue Conference will be live-streamed **here** on May 17 beginning at 9 am; presentations on the estimates of K-12 pupil membership and foundation allowance are scheduled for 10:30 am. Conference documents will be posted **here**.

Click here for a comparison of the Executive, Senate, and House School Aid spending proposals. The Legislature is on track to finalize its budget bills for presentation to Governor Whitmer by July 1.

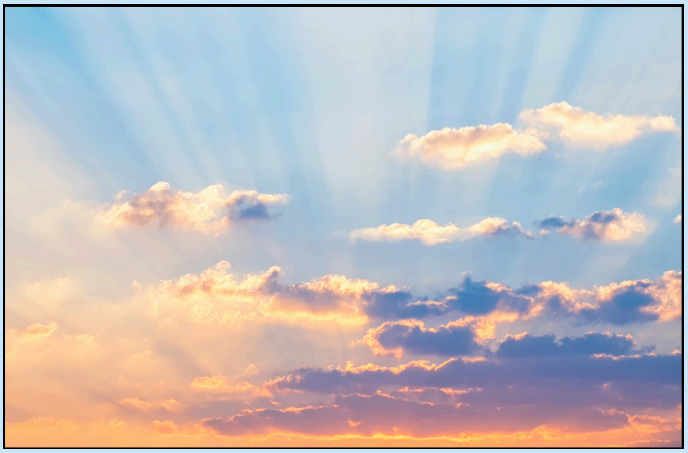
MAASE Signs Letter Urging Support for MPSERS Proposals Within State Budget

MAASE joined other K-12 education stakeholders from across the state in sending a **letter** to legislators to urge them, as they enter final negotiations on the fiscal year 2025 School Aid budget, to:

- Maintain all Section 147 allocations in the budget
- Permanently lower the cap of school contributions by 7.06% to reflect the full funding of the Michigan Public School Employees' Retirement System Other Post-employment Benefits (MPSERS OPEB) Trust Fund
- Commit to continuing to lower this rate in future budgets
- Discontinue the requirement that school employees pay 3% of their salaries toward the MPSERS OPEB Trust Fund

Please contact your State **Senator** and **Representative** to ask them to support this MSPSERS proposal which would lower costs for schools immediately and into the future, freeing up an average of $500 per pupil that schools can invest directly into classrooms.

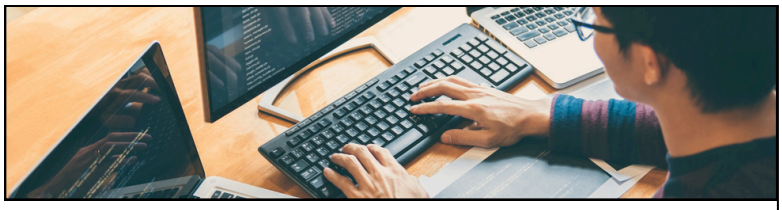
Legislation Extending Special Education ITC Sunset Headed to Governor



This week the Senate approved **Senate Bill 518,** which calls for extending the ability of the state superintendent to issue a special education interim teaching certificate (ITC) to individuals going through an approved alternative certification program.

The current deadline for issuing an ITC is July 21, 2024. The extension under SB 518 is for three years, moving it to July 21, 2027. Individuals who have received their ITC will be allowed to continue teaching special education after this new deadline as long as they meet the other applicable provisions of law.

The bill is now headed to Governor Whitmer for her signature.



High School Computer Science Course Considered in Committee

The House Education Committee heard supportive testimony this week on legislation that would require all public high schools in Michigan to offer at least one computer science course starting with the 2027-2028 school year.

House Bill 5649 defines computer science and sets standards for the course but does not impose a graduation requirement nor mandate that a specific course be taught.

The committee did not vote on the bill.

Safe Storage Information Bills Pass House Panel

Substitutes for a pair of bills (**House Bills 5450 and 5451**) that would require public and non-public schools to, beginning October 1, 2025, distribute information annually on the safe storage of firearms to parents/guardians cleared the House Education Committee.

Changes within the substitutes include:

- Requiring the state to provide the information on safe storage to both public and non-public schools
- Shifting the responsibility of developing Spanish and Arabic versions of the information to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)
- Requiring MDHHS to update the information annually