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Legislative Update

KAROUB
ASSOCIATES
karoub.com | 517.482.5000

School Safety Bills Introduced in the House



A package of eight school safety bills were introduced in the House this week:

- **HB 4222** modifies procedures for school emergency operations plans.
- **HB 4223** requires that, beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, all schools develop and implement a school safety and security training plan.
- **HB 4224** requires safety guidelines for lockdown procedures of a school building and installation of emergency responder radio coverage systems in K-12 educational facilities.
- **HB 4225** requires inclusion of OK2SAY program contact information on student identification cards, beginning July 1, 2026.
- **HB 4226** modifies the minimum number of required school fire and safety drills.
- **HB 4227** requires each ISD to employ one emergency and safety manager and at least one mental health coordinator.
- **HB 4228** requires the Department of State Police and its Office of School Safety to develop and provide safety and security training to school personnel.
- **HB 4229** requires the Office of School Safety to compile quarterly reports of tips received and share with the School Safety Mental Health Commission.

All of the bills were referred to the House Education and Workforce committee.

Meanwhile, two other school safety bills were introduced and also referred to the Education and Workforce Committee:

- **HB 4198** requires a mobile panic alert system in schools, beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.
- **HB 4199** provides funding for the mobile panic alert system.

Cyber Schools Asking for Increased Funding

The House Appropriations School Aid and Department of Education Subcommittee heard testimony this week on cyber charter school funding. Individuals from the cyber charter school community testified in support of increased funding.

Governor Whitmer has proposed decreasing funding from $9,150 per pupil, where it has remained since the 2022-2023 fiscal year, to $8,000 in the 2025-2026 school aid budget.

Teacher Certification Bills Headed to Senate

The House passed a package of teacher certification bills on March 12, sending them to the Senate for consideration.

HBs 4060, 4150, 4151, and 4153 would:

- Provide for district-level certifications
- Eliminate fees related to teaching certificates, endorsements, and permits
- Require that an additional subject area endorsement be issued to a teaching certificate if the certificate holder passed that subject area on the teacher certification test
- Allow an ISD to contract with another ISD for the purposes of operating an area career and technical education program

HB 4152—which requires the Michigan Department of Education to only approve math and science teacher preparation programs if a professor or content expert in that subject was consulted—was not taken up on the House floor because members still have questions about the bill's language.



HOUSE ROAD FUNDING BILLS HEARD IN COMMITTEE

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee heard testimony this week on the House Republicans' revenue neutral road funding plan, consisting of HBs 4180-4187. Of most interest to the education community is **HB 4185**, which would require the Department of Treasury to deposit $755 million into the School Aid Fund from the revenue collected under the 4% sales tax imposed by the General Sales Tax Act. This would be in addition to other deposits into the School Aid Fund already required by the act. No action was taken on the legislation and additional testimony is expected during next week's committee meeting.

House Panel Approves Consolidation and Reporting Bills

The House Education and Workforce Committee reported **HB 4147**, which allows schools to use Fiscal Year 2023 grant money for school service consolidation feasibility studies on administrative, janitorial, and food services.

The committee also reported **HB 4149**, which requires each public school to post a link on its website to the Michigan School Data Parent Transparency Dashboard by July 1, 2026. Then, subject to appropriation, starting July 1, 2027, and each July 1 moving forward, each public school would be required to send an annual notification to the parents/guardians of the data on the dashboard, including school's performance on state assessments.

Both bills head to the House floor.



House Introduces Resolutions on Girls' Sports, Legislation from 2024

This week the House adopted two resolutions of impact to the education community.

HR 40 encourages the Michigan High School Athletic Association to change its eligibility rules to bar transgender girls from participating in girls' sports. Eight Democrats joined all Republicans in the 66-43 vote.

HR 41 directs the Clerk of the House to only present to the Governor bills that were passed by both chambers of the 103rd Legislature before it adjourned in December 2024. This leaves nine bills from last term to die. Among them is former **HB 6058**, which would have adjusted hard cap and health care premium sharing for public employees. With this action, it appears HB 6058 will not be presented to the Governor, pending some sort of last minute court action.