MAASE

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Legislative Update

KAROUB
ASSOCIATES
karoub.com | 517.482.5000

School Aid Supplemental, Dyslexia Bills Signed Into Law

Governor Whitmer has signed three bills into law that will provide school safety and mental health funding for Fiscal Year 2025 (House Bill 5503/Public Act 148), as well as require dyslexia screenings for Michigan students and expand early literacy interventions (Senate Bills 567-568/PA 146-147).

PA 148: Appropriates $125 million in School Aid funding for additional one-time per-pupil school safety and mental health grants to districts and ISDs; appropriates $1 million to support a tip line for students to anonymously report improperly stored firearms that were accessible to a minor. Takes effect in Spring 2025.

PA 146: Requires dyslexia screening to be part of state-approved reading assessments, beginning in the 2027-2028 school year.

PA 147: Requires teacher preparation programs to include training on identifying and addressing dyslexia in students, beginning in the 2027-2028 school year.



Universal FAFSA Challenge Grant Application Opens Nov. 1

The application for funding to help school districts and public school academies integrate FAFSA completion into their high school graduation requirements will open by November 1 and close on December 1.

Managed by the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP), the **Universal FAFSA Challenge Grant Program** will distribute funds by January 31, 2025. To be eligible, districts and academies must commit to updating their graduation requirements, with exemptions available for certain students.

Funding amounts will be based on the total enrollment of 12th graders in the district or academy and must be used to implement activities proven to increase FAFSA completion rates.

The $10 million grant program is funded by an appropriation in the state budget.