

Talking Points on Proposed Shared Time Cap in Governor's Budget

MANS Administrators: Please use the background information and talking points when you reach out to your state House and Senate members asking them to protect shared time programs from the Governor's proposed cut in the Executive Budget. Follow the links below to find your legislator.

<http://house.michigan.gov/mhrpublic/>
<http://www.senate.michigan.gov/fysbyaddress.html>

If your school is participating in shared time we **strongly encourage** you to reach out to your shared time provider partner(s) and ask them to follow up with their legislators as well.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Shared Time is a State of Michigan program that allows for public and non-public schools to partner on eligible non-core elective classes (including Advanced Placement courses) such as, but not limited to, art, music, PE, modern language, media, computers, and other similar courses. The core of the program allows for a public school district to collect state revenues (FTE) for non-public school students attending mutually agreed upon eligible classes, noted above. The public school can collect the FTE by hiring eligible teachers and taking budget responsibility for their salary and benefits. It is a program that is extensively used by non-public school students. Over the past few years the legislature has expanded the geographic territory from where a non-public school student can receive instruction and has extended the program to Kindergarten. Shared time is a program that benefits both students and teachers in public and non-public schools.

The Governor's budget puts a cap of \$60 million on the amount that all shared time providers can be reimbursed from the state school aid fund for shared time classes. Claims in excess of \$60 million will be pro-rated so as not to exceed the cap.

Protect Shared Time Programs

- Any cap on shared time would severely damage shared time programs across the state and would unfairly limit opportunities for non-public school students to participate in non-core, elective classes offered by public school districts contrary to current law and a Michigan Supreme Court decision which states that non-core elective courses offered to public school students **must** be offered to non-public school students.¹
- If the stated goal of the proposed cap is to reinvest savings in the state education system to "improve student outcomes in these core subject areas", why is there not a similar dis-investment away from non-essential, elective courses at traditional public schools which accounts for 99% of the school aid budget?
- A 50% cut in shared time program funding, and a possible reduction in expected FTE reimbursement after October 1st will make it next to impossible for schools to enter into shared time contracts in the spring of 2017 in preparation for the 2017-18 school year. This budget uncertainty will likely result in the elimination of shared time programs.

¹ Snyder v Charlotte Public School District, 421 Mich 517 (1984) and
Traverse City School District v Attorney General 384 Mich 390; 185 NW 2d 9 (1971)