

Michigan Association of Non-public Schools
Public Policy Day
Lansing, MI
March 14, 2019

Talking Points – MANS Budget Priorities for Fiscal Year 2020

HEALTH AND SAFETY MANDATES: The State of Michigan has placed numerous health, safety, and welfare regulations upon all schools in Michigan. Unlike public schools that are compensated for these important safety regulations through foundation grants, nonpublic schools have no such compensation. The 2017 and 2018 School Aid Budgets included \$2.5 million to reimburse non-public schools for these requirements. In 2019 the amount appropriated was \$250,000. None of this money has been spent due to litigation, although schools have applied for reimbursement. This year's Executive Budget recommendation does not include a similar appropriation. **Please support reinstatement of \$250,000.00 in the 2020 School Aid budget for the purpose of reimbursing non-public schools that keep Michigan students safe. This amount, combined with unexpended funds from prior years, would cover the expenses incurred by nonpublic schools in the 2019-2020 school year.**

ROBOTICS AND SCIENCE OLYMPIAD: The State encourages expanded opportunities for all students in science education skills by assisting school districts and nonpublic schools to participate in FIRST Robotics and Science Olympiad events and competitions. Grant funds have been available to provide financial support for coaching, materials, and travels expenses related to these programs. In FY18 and FY 19, \$300,000 was appropriated each year for nonpublic schools to participate in a competitive grant program. *The Governor's FY20 budget does not include this funding.* These are skills in which all students in Michigan should be encouraged to excel. These are typically extracurricular activities and not part of core curriculum. **Please support reinstatement of the \$300,000 appropriation for nonpublic schools to compete for grants in the FIRST Robotics and Science Olympiad programs.**

HYDRATION STATIONS: The Governor has made a supplemental budget request of \$60 million to install hydration stations in public school buildings across the state. Governor Whitmer said, "Clean water is a fundamental human right. Let's make sure every community has safe, clean drinking water." We believe that all students in the state should have access to clean drinking water no matter what school they attend. **Please support the inclusion of nonpublic schools in any appropriation made for hydration stations in school buildings.**

EQUITABLE TREATMENT OF NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS: A number of policy and budget issues touch the operation and vitality of nonpublic schools. From school safety and security to shared time funding and teacher certification, Michigan's nonpublic schools feel the impact of decisions made in Lansing. **We urge the legislature to consider the impact of policy and budget decision on Michigan's nonpublic schools and their 100,000 students, making decisions with the best of interests of all of Michigan's students in mind, no matter where they attend school.**

Any questions please contact:

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