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## BOARD AGENDA ITEM

Information/Discussion \_\_\_\_\_

Future Action \_\_\_\_\_

Action \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_

Item: McAlvey Merchant & Associates

Submitted by: Dan Behm

Date: August 11, 2026

Recommended by: Dr. Ron Gorman

Board Meeting Date: August 17, 2026

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### RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Kent ISD Board of Education approve a contract with McAlvey Merchant & Associates for the 2026–2027 school year to provide governmental representation and advocacy services on behalf of Kent, Muskegon, and Ottawa counties.

### BACKGROUND:

McAlvey Merchant & Associates provides governmental representation and advocacy services focused on legislative and policy issues impacting public education. These services help ensure that the interests and priorities of West Michigan school districts are effectively represented with state policymakers and other key stakeholders.

For the 2026–2027 school year, Kent ISD will serve as the contracting entity for governmental representation and advocacy services benefiting Kent, Muskegon, and Ottawa counties. Through this collaborative approach, the three counties will continue to have a coordinated voice on legislative, budgetary, regulatory, and policy matters affecting public education across the region.

Kent ISD will initially contract and pay for the services provided by McAlvey Merchant & Associates. Muskegon and Ottawa counties will be billed quarterly for their respective portions of the services provided.