



SCHOOL EQUITY CAUCUS

Making a difference for the public school children of Michigan

121 W Allegan • Lansing, Michigan 48933
www.schoolequitycaucus.org
schoolequitycaucus@gmail.com
269-806-6159

December 31, 2023

Dear Colleagues:

Lansing has been very quiet over the past month following the adjournment of the Legislature for the year, along with the vacant seats in the House that have created a 54-54 tie between the parties. Therefore, this month's update is very brief!

1. Midwinter Conference Gathering on the Horizon

We hope to see you at the upcoming School Equity Caucus General Membership Luncheon to be held just prior to the MASA Midwinter Conference in Detroit! Along with an update on the latest news from the capital, there will be a lunch provided by our ongoing business partners Northland Public Finance, American Fidelity, and The Christman Company. We will get things under way on Wednesday, January 24 at 11:30 a.m.

Watch for the sign-up link coming to your inbox in the next few days! We hope you can join us!

2. Legislation Effective Date Just Ahead

As we discussed at length in last month's newsletter, most of the significant pieces of legislation passed in the last session of the legislature will be taking effect on February 13, 2024. (Laws become effective 90 days after the legislature adjourns unless they are given "immediate effect", something Republicans refused to do with most significant legislation passed this session.) A list of some of the key pieces of legislation taking effect is reprinted at the end of this newsletter.

Districts are reminded to review their existing policies/administrative guidelines in light of these changes, and make revisions as necessary. Be sure to check with your policy service or legal counsel for additional information.

3. Revenue Estimating Conference on the Horizon

The date for the next Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference (CREC) has been set for Friday, January 12, 2024. This meeting always marks the beginning of the new budget process as representatives of the House and Senate Fiscal Agencies and the Michigan Department of Treasury (representing the Whitmer Administration) meet to

arrive at “official” revenue estimates. These estimates inform the development of next year’s state budget by providing a snapshot of how revenue in the major state funds is doing to this point in the fiscal year and provides projections for upcoming years (through 2025-26).

The meeting will be livestreamed beginning at 9:00 a.m. We will provide a detailed summation of the major takeaways in a written update later that day, and at our general meeting in Detroit on January 24th.

That’s all for this abbreviated update! Hopefully your holiday season is going well, and you are preparing for a wonderful 2024!

As always, please be in touch with questions or concerns.



Dirk Weeldreyer
Executive Director
(269) 806-6159
schoolequitycaucus@gmail.com

List of legislation becoming effective (reprinted from the November 30, 2023 newsletter):

The following non-exhaustive list is a sample of the items that are among those passed this session, most of which will now be taking effect as of February 13, 2024:

- P.A. [4](#) – phase out of the “retirement tax” and other tax changes
- P.A. [7](#) – repeal of the third-grade retention legislation
- P.A. [9](#) – removes “Right to Work” provisions, enabling contracts to include mandatory union dues/service fees
- P.A. [10](#) – reinstatement of prevailing wage provisions
- P.A. [26](#) – allowing future sinking fund approvals to be used toward transportation
- P.A. [34](#) – elimination of the “letter grading” school accountability system
- P.A. [51](#) – modifies certain disciplinary procedures regarding a student who has reported being sexually assaulted
- P.A. [57](#) – requires schools to provide students with information on sexual assault
- P.A. [110](#) – requires CPR/first aid training for new teachers along with other changes to certification
- P.A. [111](#) – reciprocity for out-of-state school counselors
- P.A. [113](#) – eliminates wage/step and insurance benefit freeze at the expiration of a collective bargaining agreement
- P.A. [114](#) – allows the collection of union dues
- P.A. [115/116](#) – removal of a number of items from the list of prohibited subjects of bargaining including placement, evaluation, and other personnel decisions

- P.A. [143](#) – removes third party contracting from the list of prohibited subjects of bargaining
- P.A. [147](#) – changes MPERS rules to allow retirees to return after one month and earn up to \$15,100, or return after six months and earn unlimited amounts
- P.A. [154](#) – “Filter First” drinking water planning and testing
- P.A. [224/225](#) – alterations to the educator evaluation system (effective date starting with the 2024-25 school year)
- P.A. [236](#) – requires districts to provide the applicable union bargaining unit with personal information of any new employee including their personal email, address, phone, wages and other information
- P.A. [250](#) – changes the default retirement selection for new participants in MPERS to the pension plan rather than the defined contribution 401(k)/457 plan.
- P.A. [320](#) – cleans up various items in the original School Aid budget act from the summer
- P.A. [321](#) – provides \$114 million in debt relief for six school districts