



Ionia County Intermediate School District
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Partners in building full potential

COLLABORATION INTEGRITY INNOVATION SERVICE ACCOUNTABILITY DATA-DRIVEN

Board Report — October 9, 2025

- **Student Information System:** All local districts, including all three rural school districts, took appropriate action and have formally approved a transition from Skyward to PowerSchool for a student information system. We have signed a contract with PowerSchool to create the Ionia County consortium. A timeline and training schedule will be created next as the behind-the-scenes heavy lifting will begin for the moving of data and system integration. The goal is to go “live” with PowerSchool for use on July 1, 2026.
- **Construction Update:** At the September board meeting, the board approved me to authorize up to \$135,000 for the three areas of site work, concrete and asphalt for the improvement projects to the parking lot at Transitions Center. The bids came in well and under budget; to the degree that we were able to accept the alternate bid for some additional concrete in a heavy wear area and reducing the amount of asphalt. All in all, the total of accepted bids with the extra concrete came to \$91,910.
- **Administrator Training:** The district is pursuing a workshop with our legal counsel on the topic of employee discipline. The last dedicated training for just our ISD administrative team was several years ago. We have new administrators with various degrees of prior experience along with changes to state and federal laws. We would like to focus on the requirements and best practices of employee investigations, record keeping, appropriate lines of questioning, the utilization of written performance directives making determinations on if/when disciplinary action is warranted and following the parameters of our master agreements.
- **Talent Together Update:** October is being recognized as *Talent Together Month*, a way to recognize the incredible work happening across the state in growing new teachers from existing school staff. Talent Together has grown from a creative concept into a statewide movement that is significantly impacting the future of Michigan’s educator workforce. Current data from Talent Together shows:
 - 1,200 Teacher Candidates across three cohorts (with over 5,000 applicants!)
 - 300 Registered Apprentice Teachers

- Strengthened partnerships with all 56 Michigan ISDs and growing numbers of local school districts
- A focus on diversity in the teacher workforce: while Michigan's educator population is 11% BIPOC, Talent Together's teacher candidates average 21% BIPOC representation.
- **Legislative Update:** In Washington, D.C., lawmakers have failed to reach a budget deal, and a federal shutdown is currently in effect. It's still unclear how wide-ranging the shutdown will be, or which programs may be disrupted, but Federal Impact Aid and Head Start could be affected because of how they're funded. Title funding, however, should remain intact. At this point, it's uncertain how long the shutdown will last; though early reports suggest a quick resolution is unlikely.

In Michigan, legislators failed to pass a state budget by the October 1 deadline. They did, however, pass a resolution to continue funding government services for an additional seven days while final votes and details were to be worked out.

On October 2, information released that the Conference Committee had reached final FY 2026 state budgets. After several months, it appears the final School Aid Fund budget ended up very similar to the original Executive and Senate proposals from months ago. Here are some highlights:

- **Foundation Allowance:**
 - **\$442/pupil increase** bringing the total amount to \$10,050/pupil (4.6% increase)
- **Weighted Funding Models Increases:**
 - **25% increases for:**
 - **At-Risk: \$1.3B**, an increase of \$259M in additional funding
 - Adds requirement that recipient districts must provide a report to parents on how the funding was used and allow parents to provide feedback.
 - **English Learners: \$62.7M**, an increase of \$12.5M in additional funding
 - **4.6% increases for:**
 - **CTE: \$2.2M** (additional funding)
 - **22d (Small and Isolated School Districts): \$566,200** (additional funding)
 - **ISD general operations: \$3.7M** (additional funding)
 - **5.7% increase for:**
 - **Special Education: \$528M**, an increase of \$23.5M in additional funding

Other Budget Line Items

- **MPSERS: \$591.5M** for increased rate cap costs and **removed the MPSERS cost offset** \$598M from last year
- **31aa (School Safety and Mental Health): \$321M** (*one-time allocated over two years; \$53.5M added to hire school resource officers and \$53.5M to hire mental health professionals*)
 - Adds cell phone free school policies as an eligible use of funds and to require recipients to agree to be subject to an investigation after a mass casualty event
- **School Meals: \$201.6M** (*one-time and allows nonpublic schools that participate in the Federal school lunch program*)
- **Out-of-Formula Payment: eliminated**
- **School-Based Health Centers: \$33M** (*one-time*)
- **Small Class Sizes Program: \$65M** (*one-time*)
- **Infrastructure Grants: \$100M** (*one-time; competitive grants for districts that have infrastructure needs identified in the statewide school infrastructure study*)
- **GSRP: \$626M**, increasing the per-pupil rate and removing income eligibility rates (*\$28M increase*)
- **Before & After School Programs: \$75M** (*one-time; \$18M increase*)
- **Transportation: \$125M** (*one-time*) and deposited \$130M to the school transportation reserve fund
- **School Aid Pupil Reserve Fund: \$362M** (*new; one-time*)
- **Budget Stabilization: \$71M** to help stabilize operating budgets for districts experiencing declining enrollment (*one-time*)
- **Literacy Supports: \$70M** (*decrease; one-time*)
- **FAFSA: \$10M** to encourage students to complete Free Application for Federal Student Aid form (*one-time*)
- **Grow Your Own: \$70M** (*one-time*)
- **Talent Together: Eliminated**
- **Michigan Future Educator Fellowship: \$25M** (*one-time*)
- **MI Future Educator Student Teacher Stipend: \$50M** (*one-time*)
- **Educator Compensation Program: \$350M** for FY 24-25 Supplemental (*new; one-time*)
 - **\$203M** funds for per pupil funding for educator compensation
 - **\$147M to reimburse districts, ISD's, district libraries, and community colleges for costs related to the MPSERS health care subsidy benefit**
 - **Requirements on School Meals, Financial Incentives, and Surveys:**
 - **Requires MDE to withhold 5% of a recipient's state aid payment for non-compliance** on any of the following requirements:

- Federal school meal rules.
- Mandatory completion of the federal free and reduced-price meal application by *all* students.
- Ban on offering students financial incentives to attend on count day.
- Public disclosure of *all* student survey questions.
- Parent notification when a district uses a curriculum *not* designated by MDE as evidence-based.

As you can see, it will take some time to understand all of the details in the bill and respective conference reports. While on the surface there are some financial gains; there are also new reporting requirements within the categorical payments, some new categoricals and some completely zeroed out.