



Ionia County Intermediate School District
2191 Harwood Road
Ionia, MI 48846
616 527-4900
www.ioniaisd.org

Partners in building full potential

COLLABORATION INTEGRITY INNOVATION SERVICE ACCOUNTABILITY DATA-DRIVEN

Board Report---December 12, 2024

- **Construction:** The ongoing renovations and remodeling in the Special Education Department wing of the administration building are nearing completion. With the move of ASD staff to the new autism building, it allowed us the opportunity to reconfigure space to create some additional storage for materials, offices for some staff that have been without, and create a conference room area for around a dozen people. Our hope is staff in that area of the building find these improved and enhanced areas a positive addition.
- **Legislative Update:** The Legislature returned to Lansing this week to begin the Lame Duck session, with several bills moving forward, including potential changes to PA 152 that impacts employer-employee health insurance. However, overall activity during Lame Duck remains uncertain. House Democrats, with a narrow one-vote majority for a few more weeks, face challenges within their caucus and need full participation to pass legislation without Republican support.

The House Education Committee approved a five-bill school safety package on December 4 after hearing testimony the day prior. The bills now head to the House floor for further consideration and include:

- **HB 4095** Establishes a standardized response terminology plan and requires schools to adopt it.
- **HB 4096** Creates a standardized response terminology plan.
- **HB 5549** Requires schools to establish threat assessment teams.
- **HB 5659** Revises the membership of the School Safety Commission.
- **HB 5660** Updates references to the School Safety Commission.

The Committee also voted out **HB 5174** requiring the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) to develop or adopt a model program for instruction on organ, eye, and tissue donation and transplantation. A substitute version of the bill makes the program optional for school districts, allowing them to provide one hour of instruction for ninth-grade students, with an opt-out option for parents or guardians through a written request. The bill passed and now moves to the House floor.

Additionally, the Committee voted to send **HB 5735** to the House floor as well. This bill would revise Merit Curriculum requirements by removing references to specific courses and requiring students to complete four math credits, including three aligned with subject area standards.

The House Labor Committee heard testimony on **HB 6058** and voted along party lines to advance the bill to the House floor. The legislation proposes two major changes to current law:

1. Increase Health Care Contribution Cap:
 - The bill would tie maximum employer contributions for public employee health care to the greater of the medical CPI or 3% for single-person and family plans, while a single-person plus one dependent plan would be capped at 2.4 times the amount of single-person coverage starting in 2028.
 - It would allow these maximum contributions to exceed 100% through collective bargaining, starting at 101% in 2025 and gradually increasing to 105% by 2029.
 - Under current law, the contribution cap is calculated by multiplying a set amount by the number of employees who select each specific coverage type. This legislation would increase the set amount as follows:
 - Single-person coverage: The employee multiplier would increase from \$5,500 to \$8,258.54.
 - Individual + one dependent: The employee multiplier would increase from \$11,000 to \$17,271.17.
 - Family coverage: The employee multiplier would increase from \$15,000 to \$22,523.34.
2. New Employer Contribution Floor:
 - The bill would set a minimum employer contribution rate of 80% for any contract signed after January 1, 2025.

Proponents of these changes to the law emphasized rising health care costs and the need for local units to negotiate these increases. Meanwhile, Sen. Hertel introduced **SB 1129** and **SB 1130**, which propose an alternative approach. These bills also cap health care increases but instead raise the current hard cap without mandating an 80/20 system. Discussions on these proposals are expected to continue as the Lame Duck session progresses.

Other bills introduced this week that have a potential impact on education include:

SB 1142 Modifies requirements for renewal of a school counselor credential

SB 1145 Requires 1 unit of instruction in African-American, Indigenous People, Asian American, Pacific Islander, Latin American, Hispanic American, Caribbean American, Arab American, North African, Chaldean American, and Jewish American history

SB 1146 Provides teachers and administrators instruction and professional development on cultural competency

SB 1147 Creates the cultural history advisory board

SB 1176 Creates a behavioral threat assessment and management program fund

SB 1177 Requires department to create and implement a behavioral threat assessment

and management program

SB 1186 Exempt from prevailing wage act state projects paid for by bond proposals

HB 6168 Provides for funding for menstrual hygiene products in schools

HB 6169 Require schools to provide feminine hygiene products to eligible students

HB 6191 Provides mandatory reporting requirements for school employees or individuals who are assigned to regularly and continuously work under contract at a school

HB 6206 Modifies to require the use of forms created by the department of health and human services for immunizations requirements

HB 6207 Modifies reporting of immunization status

HB 6224 Modifies requirements to receive funding to improve FAFSA competition rates

HB 6231 Provides for requirement for schools to provide instruction on African-American history

HB 6250 Provides instruction in cyber bullying and harassment prevention

HB 6255 Modifies definition of operating obligation