



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---May 8, 2025

- **Policy Update:** We have a policy addition recommended for Article VI-Finances. The Office of Career Technical Education is requiring districts to have a policy on CTE expenditure practices. This would be a new policy and needs adoption by August 1, 2025. We are presenting this required language as Article VI, Section 21 for a first reading in May and adoption in June.
- **Recent Training Events:** ISD leadership team members have been very busy in the past month attending and participating in numerous professional learning opportunities and training. We have had numerous individuals attend the annual state Michigan School Business Officials (MSBO) conference in Grand Rapids. Jamie and I presented a session for attendees on the importance of the superintendent-finance director relationship. A team of us attended a statewide summit at Ferris State University sponsored by the Michigan Intermediate Association of School Administrators on the topic of student seclusion and restraint. Finally, a team of us participated in the 2025 Great Lakes Homeland Security Training Conference and Expo at DeVos Place along with law enforcement to listen to current developments and best practices on school security measures.
- **Legislative Update:** At the federal level, negotiating and posturing in Washington continued this month between the Trump administration, legislature, lobbyists, and various courts. At this point, the only certainty is uncertainty, often daily. As new orders are given, many are quickly blocked or removed; leaving schools with more questions than answers. Potential cuts to Title, Medicaid, and PreK (e.g. Head Start) funds are still up in the air, as are the potential impacts of cuts to any federal programs and staffing at the state level. At the current time, it appears that Title funding will make it through the budget process relatively unscathed, but Medicaid and PreK are very likely to have significant impacts. However, this is all subject to change quickly.

At the state level, it has been another relatively slow month in Lansing action-wise, with various education related items being discussed in committees. I would anticipate a quickening pace of legislative business as we progress through May as the much-anticipated Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference (CREC) is held and that will increase discussions on the respective chamber budgets.

While we await a full budget recommendation from the House, the Senate Subcommittee has released its preliminary budget with the following highlights of note:

- 1. Requirements for Foundation Allowance Increases.** Adds a new section that requires districts to use 50% of the foundation allowance increase for increases in educator compensation (Sec. 18d).
- 2. Small Class Sizes.** Changes rules for at-risk funding to allow any district to use up to 30% of at-risk funds to reduce class sizes in grades K to 3 (Sec. 31a).
- 3. Virtual Classes.** Lowers the number of days that a district could hold class virtually from 15 to 7 (Sec. 21f).
- 4. Great Start Readiness Program.** Removes income eligibility thresholds from the program and removes various prescriptive requirements, giving more discretion to MiLEAP regarding the administration of the program (Sec. 32d). Also restructured payments around the concept of a “GSRP foundation allowance” and modified the distribution formula to be more aligned with requested enrollment (Sec. 39).
- 5. Tuition for Nonresident Pupils.** Eliminates the ability for districts to charge tuition for nonresident pupils (Sec. 111).
- 6. Nonpublic Schools.** Removes nonpublic schools from the list of eligible recipients for mental health and school safety grants (Sec. 31aa) and robotics funding (Sec. 99h).
- 7. Infrastructure Funding.** Includes significant funding for school consolidation and infrastructure in the amount of \$283,400,000 and commissions Launch Michigan to conduct a statewide consolidation and efficiency study.
- 8. SMART Plan.** The new Sec. 16 accountability program from the Governor’s proposal is NOT included in the Senate recommendation.
- 9. Categoricals.** Maintains Executive recommendations for transportation, school meals, MPSERS and GSRP reserves, a cyber charter reduction, and enrollment stabilization.