

# POLITICS, POLICY & PUBLIC EDUCATION

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# AGENDA

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- *Political Landscape*
  - *2014 Recap*
  - *2015-16 Forecast*
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# POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

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- "New" Legislative Session
- "New" Direction
- "New" Ideas



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# 2015-16 MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE

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- Legislative Turnover: 1/3 Members "new"
  - Republicans will have 63-47 and 27-11 majority in the House and Senate.
  - New Leadership, Policy and Appropriations Chairs
  - "Generally" more conservative
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# 98TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION

## "NEW MEMBERS"

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### Fast Facts:

- 44 “True” Freshmen (never served before)
- 38 Men 16 Women
- 23 Local Government Officials
- 7 Teachers/Educators
- 2 CPAs/Accountants
- 2 School Counselors/Social Workers
- 2 Attorneys
- 6 Previously ran for House and lost
- 7 are in their 30's; 6 are in their 20's
- 6 are related to state legislators

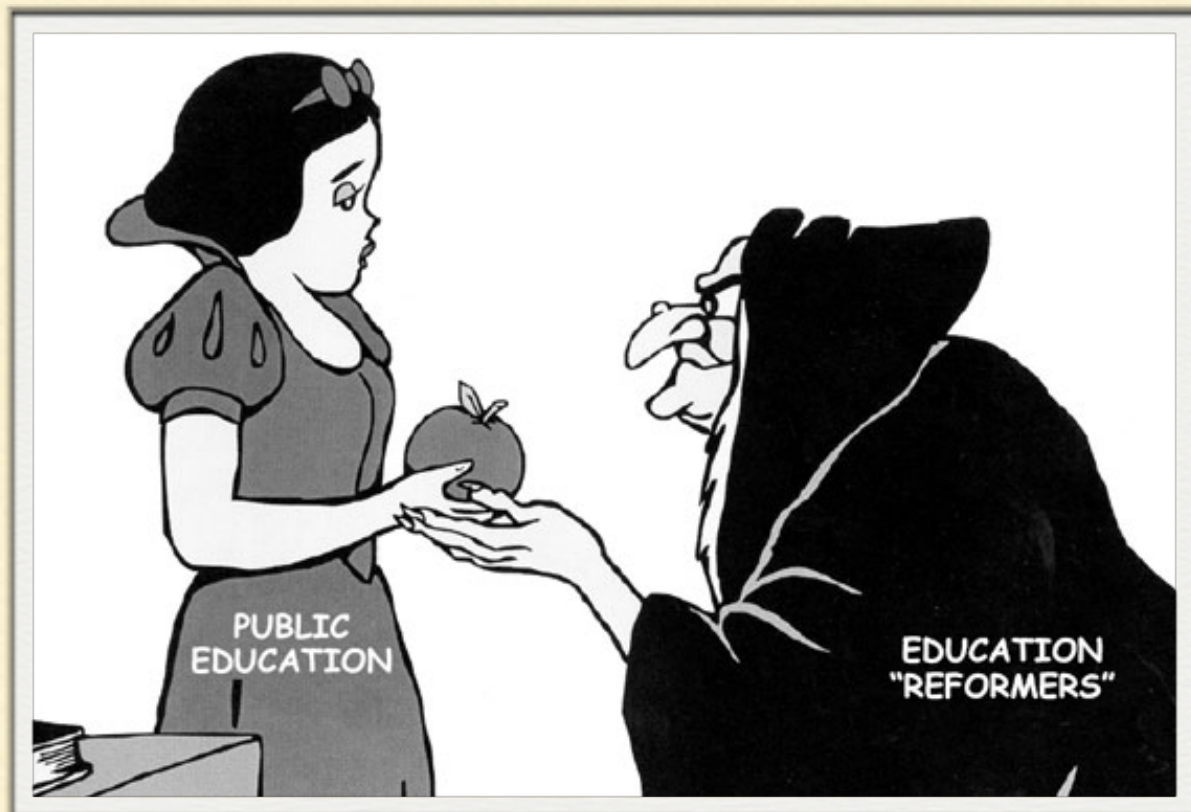
Politics is  
far more  
complicated  
than physics.  
*Albert Einstein*



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# 2014 LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

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## 2013-14 Legislature

- Over 650 Education Bills Introduced in 14-15
- 404 Bills signed

- Reading Retention
  - SBLF Cap
  - EAA
  - Letter Grading
  - Evaluation
  - Early Warning
  - FOIA
  - Cyber Bullying
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# STATE LETTER GRADES

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Proposal: Establishes a school **transparency dashboard**, a new school **accountability system** and assigns a **letter grade** to each school based on school performance.



## CONCERNS

- *High States Accountability*: 100% of an elementary schools and 75% of a high school would based solely on one test.
  - *Assessments*: Schools will be judged on a test students haven't yet seen.
  - *Add More Targets*: The bill adds a new transparency dashboard.
  - *Creates Multiple Accountability Systems*: In order to meet the requirements of the Federal flexibility waiver may need to adopt multiple systems.
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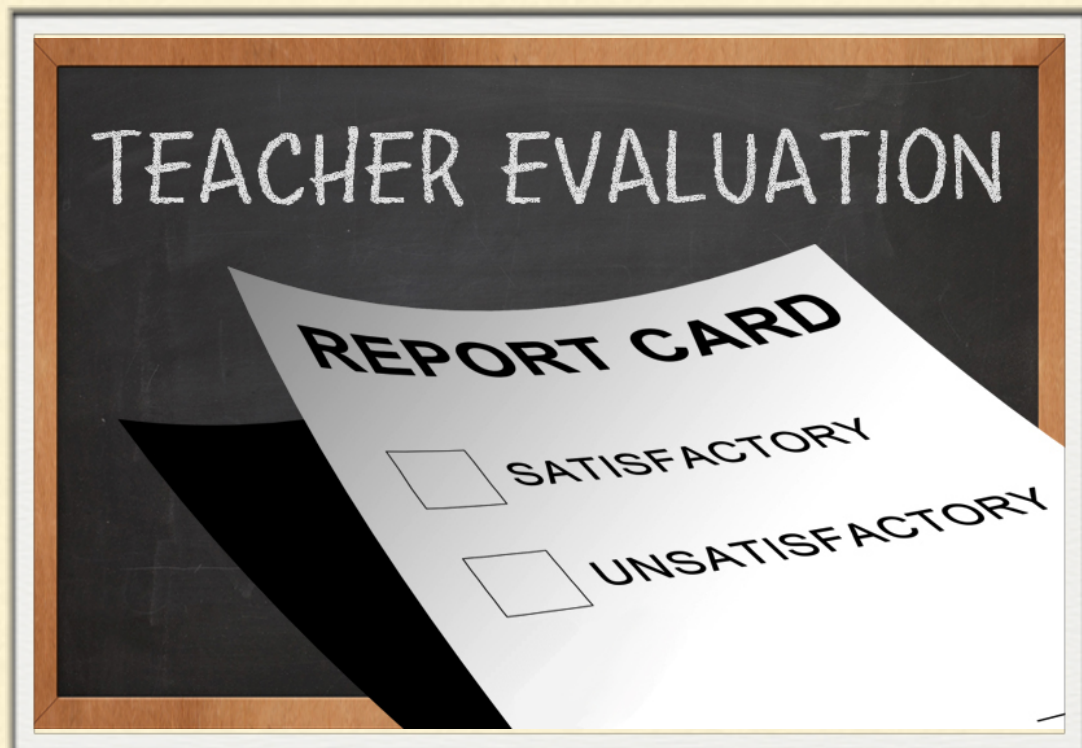


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# PERFORMANCE EVALUATION SYSTEMS (PES)

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- Legislation Stalled: Subject more to politics than policies



- Current Law: Evaluate job performance using multiple rating categories that take into account data on student growth as a **significant factor**. Student growth must be measured, at least in part, using the state assessments. (PA 257 of 14)
  - What now: Beginning with the 2015-2016 shall ensure that the (PES) shall include at least a annual *year-end* evaluation. At least 50% of the annual year-end evaluation based on student growth. (May Be Amended)
  - Financial Support: None; subject to policy bills
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# EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

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We support an effective early warning system that provides school districts with the data they need to avoid future deficits.



- **Proposal is too broad:** 17 different triggers. Solution: Utilize existing private sector tools that determine financial performance in a district. Don't recreate the wheel.
  - **Too much paperwork.** Must submit periodic financial status reports in the form and manner and on the periodic basis prescribed by the Department of Treasury. Solution: Replace siloed proposal with a system closer to the distressed districts.
  - **Circumvents the Emergency Manager Process.** Bypasses due process, the review, local meetings, posting, finding of facts, hearing, consent agreement and governance provisions and places a district directly into the EM. Solution. Rework DEP to force more communication and authority within MDE and Treasury.
  - **Impacts all Districts.** ALL districts are required to submit budget assumptions to CEPI every year. Their ISD must then verify those assumptions. Solution: Don't regulate to the exceptions.
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# FOIA CHANGES (PA 563 OF 2014)

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- New FOIA regulations July 1, 2015.
- Standard form (Itemize 6 fee components)
- Must provide records on non-paper media stipulated by the requestor.
- Can't charge more than \$0.10/sheet for copies.
- Post procedures, guidelines, and summary on website.
- Increased penalty for violating act
- MSBO Webinar (March 5th)





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# CYBER BULLYING (PA 478 OF 2014)

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- Modifies Matt's Safe School Law (PA 241 of 2011) to include cyberbullying



- Districts must modify bullying policies to forbid cyberbullying by September 18th
  - "Cyberbullying" is defined as "any electronic communication that is intended or that a reasonable person would know is likely to harm one or more pupils" by....
  - Doesn't give schools direction on extent of jurisdiction over off-campus cyberbullying
  - Schools are placed in the position of either not disciplining off-campus cyberbullying because the discipline would likely be challenged successfully on First Amendment grounds, or disciplining in violation of the First Amendment.
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# 2015 LEGISLATIVE FORECAST

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- Career and Technical Education
- Reading proficiency
- Challenged and "portfolio schools"
- "Accountability"
- Early warning
- Evaluation
- Unfunded Mandates and Fiscal Notes
- Truancy and Expulsion



- MASA Priorities
  - Road Funding
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# 2015-16 MASA PRIORITIES



## Highlights: (proactive)

- Funding: Student focused and equitable
- Unfunded Mandates And Reporting
- Sinking Fund Modification
- Seat Time Waiver
- Year Round Schooling
- Pre-Labor Day Start Flexibility
- Truancy



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# ROAD FUNDING BALLOT PROPOSAL

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- When: May 5, 2015
- Coalition, Polling and Messaging being developed. More information January 30th.

## What it does:

- Increases the Sales tax 6% to 7%
  - Directs current gas tax to roads.
  - Prohibits Univ's from SAF, adds Community Colleges and CTE
  - At-Risk District Funding
  - Main Street Fairness Act
  - EITC
  - Adequacy study
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# BALLOT PROPOSAL

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- Projected benefit: \$300 m
- Considerations: Additional tax measures on a ballot. (Feb 9)
- Ballot measure Do's and Don'ts (MASA Website)
- Engage Grassroots Network
- Implications: 2014 House Passed Version



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# 2015-16 SCHOOL FUNDING

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- Revenue Conference:  
2014-15: \$292m SAF: \$330m GF  
2015-16: \$515m SAF: \$400m GF
- Use **caution** when estimating 2015-16 foundation payments until after state budget process begins (mid-feb)
- Too many **external variables** (roads, GF fix and new legislature)



