

Charlie Glaes - [EmailDefender SPAM suspect] Legislative Update for the Week of April 5-9

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Subject: [EmailDefender SPAM suspect] Legislative Update for the Week of April 5-9



MA Legislative Update

Legislative Update for the Week of April 5-9**In this weekly update...**

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Flanagan: No New RTTT Bills Needed

In an interview this week, State Superintendent Mike Flanagan said that new legislation will not be necessary for Michigan to secure the next round of Race To The Top (RTTT) money.

Flanagan said the plan is to review the final application for round two at the May State Board of Education meeting. The deadline for submission to the U.S. Department of Education is June 1.

Although Republicans have said Michigan will have to lift the charter cap to qualify, Flanagan said the Schools of Excellence legislation was sufficient and was not a key reason in why the state failed to even make the top 16 in round one.

Flanagan said getting the MEA and other advocacy groups will be critical for Michigan -- and indeed, many observers believe the state has no shot without it. The American Federation of Teachers chapter in Michigan (AFT) did sign on to the plan in the first round.

Michigan received an average 366.2 points out of 500. The 16 finalists scored at least 400. Two winners have been announced. Delaware received 423.4 initially and 439.6 points in its final review. Tennessee netted 428.4 points up front and 429.2 points in the final evaluation. Both states had broad union support for their plans.

Michigan Should See Job Growth In 2011, Economist Says

Although total growth would still be relatively anemic, Michigan should see job growth in 2011 after 10 years of job losses, a University of Michigan economist said Wednesday.

The projection by George Fulton of the Research Seminar in Quantitative Economics (RSQE), is a major reversal of his earlier forecast made in November that Michigan would lose jobs during 2011.

Five months ago, Mr. Fulton projected the state would lose 16,000 jobs during 2011, with job growth only coming at the end of the year. But on Wednesday, he projected that the state would see total job growth of 20,400 in 2011.

While that would be less than half the average number of jobs the state saw in growth during the 1990s and other economic recoveries, it would still be the first positive year in job growth in more than a decade.

House Republicans Roll Out Budget Plan

Under a proposal released by House Republicans, the School Aid Fund budget would be balanced by eliminating nearly all categorical spending.

Although the plan would avoid a per-pupil funding cut and actually increase per-student funding by \$18.55, it would do so at the cost of 18 programs, including CTE funding, declining enrollment, millage equalization payments to ISDs, and math and science grants. The cuts total \$430 million and include reductions to, but not the elimination of school readiness grants (reduced by 17%) and at-risk funding (reduced by 83%).

Those changes would cover the projected \$410 million deficit in the School Aid Fund, allowing for the \$18.55 increase in the per-pupil foundation grant.

Their proposal also calls for reforms, including mandating that school employees pay more toward the cost of their health care, freezing pay for all school personnel for one year, requiring competitive bidding for non-instructional services and allowing local districts to open charter schools.

In addition to the changes in School Aid, House Republicans would gut \$665 million in department spending, privatize some state services, cut revenue sharing and university funding, and rescind the 3 percent pay increase scheduled for union-represented state workers.

The full plan is available on the Michigan House Republicans' website or by [clicking here](#).

MASA Performance Evaluation Resource Center Up and Running

With the passage of the state Race to the Top legislation last year, lawmakers enacted a requirement that Michigan schools implement a performance evaluation system. Further, they required that schools use this system, at a minimum, to inform decisions regarding teacher effectiveness, promotion, retention, professional development and tenure.

MASA has received numerous questions about this new requirement. In response, we have developed our Performance Evaluation Resource Center to help answer your questions and assist you in designing and implementing a performance evaluation system.

On this site you will find:

- Information about Michigan's performance evaluation legislation.
- Summaries and links to national and regional performance evaluation research.
- Overviews and links to information about performance evaluation models already being used in other states or that have been developed by respected experts in the field.
- Other links to relevant and timely performance evaluation resources.

[Please click here to be directed to the Performance Evaluation Resource Center.](#)

Check back often; we will add to these resources as new tools become available. We welcome your submissions as well. Send ideas and links to bbiladeau@gomasa.org.

MASA Retirement Reform Resource Center Available Online

MASA has received numerous questions about Governor Granholm's retirement reform proposal since it was introduced as legislation in both chambers of the legislature. In response, we have developed a Retirement Reform Resource Center to help answer your questions and to assist you in handling the various staff-related situations that may arise as these bills move forward. In the resource center you will find:

- Retirement proposal analysis by plan
- Legislation line-by-line
- Retirement legislation FAQ
- Eligible retiree count by district
- MSPERS retirement powerpoint
- MSPERS retirement system data by county
- Senate Bill 1227 analysis
- House Bill 5953 analysis
- DMB overview
- State budget analysis

[Please click here to be directed to the MASA Retirement Reform Resource Center.](#)

MASA Seeks Feedback on Reporting Requirements

Despite Michigan's school funding crisis, the legislature and the Department of Education are continuing to increase reporting requirements for schools while at the same time decreasing funding. Our recent review shows schools in Michigan are required to submit 200 different reports to various state departments. These reports take time and money to complete, diverting precious resources from the classroom and artificially inflating administrative costs for schools.

In an effort to reduce unnecessary reporting requirements, MASA and MAISA have compiled a list of mandatory school reports on which we are seeking your feedback. We intend to use your feedback to develop legislation to eliminate unnecessary or duplicative reports and simplify those that must remain. A little investment of your time now might save schools time and resources for years to come.

To participate, visit our website or simply use the following links to review the list of [mandatory reports](#) and then fill out the [online survey](#).