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*Partners in building full potential*

COLLABORATION INTEGRITY INNOVATION SERVICE ACCOUNTABILITY DATA-DRIVEN

## Board Report---February 13, 2025

- **Federal Update:** Numerous executive orders that may have implications on education continue to be issued by the new White House administration. As of this report, there have been executive orders released on federal funding freezes, expanding school choice through establishment of a federal program and the elimination of diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives among others. Additionally, there is the potential for an order dismantling, abolishing or revamping the United States Department of Education.

It is challenging, if not impossible; to forecast what exactly may happen in the future. It is important to note that the executive orders being issued from the White House are not laws, but directives on how federal agencies should act. An executive order eliminating the Department of Education for example would require an act of Congress. There are additional regulations and laws also in place to protect federal school funding and safeguard our operations.

As we have already seen, some executive orders are being challenged through our legal system where courts and judges will determine their legality. This will undoubtedly continue. Other executive orders have been rescinded or paused by the administration. This causes confusion, which is why our team is committed to remaining engaged with our legal counsel, working in close coordination with our advocacy groups and professional networks and partners at the Michigan Department of Education to learn all we can about how proposals and changes at the federal level may impact our schools

- **Policy Update:** On January 15, the US Department of Education rescinded the 2024 provisions of Title IX and instructed that the provisions of 2020 were being placed back into effect. Our board policies that address Title IX were updated recently. We will consult with legal counsel to determine if our policies are compliant with the reversion to 2020 regulations or are written as such that we remain in compliance. Regardless, Michigan schools are required to follow the Michigan Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, which was updated and expanded in 2024 and addresses individuals and discrimination from several standpoints.
- **Legislative Update:** On February 5, Governor Whitmer released her proposed budget. This will be the beginning of the annual process to set the next fiscal year's appropriations. The House and Senate will follow, with a committee typically formed to reach a final budget after the May consensus revenue estimating conference update.

Among the areas of the budget that relates to education:

- A. Foundation Allowance - 4.1% increase - \$10,000/pupil
- B. 4.1% increase to Section 81
- C. 4.1% increase in the weights - at risk, special ed, ELL and CTE
- D. \$90m one time to reimburse districts for half of their required employee healthcare contributions - 1.5% (partly continuing the current year 3% reimbursement)
- E. \$150m ongoing for school safety and mental health
- F. Literacy - \$20m one time to double grants to districts - funding as a result of the dyslexia bills
- G. Letters training - add additional literacy coach to each 26 ISDs that didn't receive one in 2024
- H. Student Measures - \$232m best practices incentives. CSI ATS or TSI buildings are guaranteed funding, which goes out on a per pupil basis. Buildings measuring up to the 50th percentile could be eligible for funding based on sliding scale. Money Will be required to be spent on best practices and high impact tutoring - list from MI Kids Back on Track.
- I. Transparency - boilerplate around parental notifications of school standings and curriculum alignment, ensuring that K-5 buildings that are not utilizing evidence-based curriculum will be required to provide parent notification indicating that and then detailing how they'll get there. There is also parental notification required for schools not meeting the performance measures and outlining a plan to improve those outcomes.
- J. Strong Beginnings - \$61m one time for a 5-year program to increase the number of classrooms.
- K. GSRP - no increase in total slots, though funding increased \$392/child
- L. \$25m start up grants for GSRP
- M. \$125m for CTE pathways to success - startup resources for CTE deserts.
- N. Infrastructure and consolidation - \$155m deposit for infrastructure and \$150m for consolidation.
- O. \$50m in a rainy day fund - \$500m total.