



# SCHOOL EQUITY CAUCUS

*Making a difference for the public school children of Michigan*

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Dear Colleagues:

Welcome to the 2023-24 school year! I hope you're enjoying a great start to the year!

It's been a very light summer in Lansing with neither chamber meeting for any truly substantive work since the completion of the state budget at the end of June. Both the House and Senate have sessions scheduled for next Tuesday. With this "slow news cycle", there are only a few items to pass along this month:

## **1. Governor's "What's Next" Speech**

On Wednesday, Governor Whitmer delivered a speech outlining her legislative priorities for this fall and the months beyond that. The speech, billed as "What's Next", focused on a number of different areas of public policy including health care, the environment, elections, and more.

Notably absent from Governor Whitmer's speech were any real proposals focused on education. There are rumors that the legislature will be looking at further adjustments to the rules governing retirement and returns to work, evaluations, post-Labor Day start repeal, and a few other items. It would appear that the next Education Committee meetings will not take place until the week of September 11.

We will keep on top of developments this fall as they occur.

## **2. Legislation Effective Date?**

Due to the very narrow margins in the state legislature, most of the key pieces of legislation passed last winter and spring were not given "immediate effect" when they were passed. (Immediate effect is an override of the standard legislative provision that laws do not take effect until 90 days after the end of a legislative session.) Therefore, the date of the end of the legislative session is becoming a closely watched item and is a question we are frequently receiving.

Most pundits are speculating that the legislature will not adjourn until at least November, putting the 90-day window out until February. It is possible that things could stretch as far as the end of March. We should begin to get a better idea of the upcoming schedule when the legislature returns next week, and may be able to share additional information at the MASA Fall Conference.

**3. Coming Soon—Fall General Meeting!**

As referenced in the previous item, the MASA Fall Conference in Traverse City is just around the corner! Make plans now to join us for our September luncheon meeting immediately preceding the conference! We will meet in the Michigan Ballroom of the Grand Traverse Resort (just past the hotel registration desks) beginning at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 20. Doors will open at 11:15, and the meeting will conclude no later than 12:45 p.m.

Thanks to our business partners – American Fidelity, Northland Public Finance, and The Christman Company – for their support of the School Equity Caucus.

An email regarding registration for the luncheon will be sent out soon to all members. Look for that in your inbox!

**4. 2023-24 Membership Dues**

Also, just a quick reminder to those of you who have not yet submitted your membership dues for 2023-24. Your support of the School Equity Caucus is what keeps the critical cause of equity at the forefront of discussions around the state! Please contact us if you have any questions regarding membership.

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That's all for this update! I hope you are able to enjoy a few last days of summer over the upcoming Labor Day weekend!

As always, please be in touch with questions or concerns.



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