



SCHOOL EQUITY CAUCUS

Making a difference for the public school children of Michigan

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CAUCUS INFORMATION ALERT

October 3, 2019

Re: 2019-20 Budget – Governor Whitmer’s Education-Related Vetoes

Colleagues and Friends:

On Monday Governor Whitmer used her line-item veto power to remove nearly \$950 million from the 2019-20 overall state budget. Among the items vetoed were 40 lines within the School Aid budget, totaling nearly \$130 million in allocations. While the legislature could override these vetoes in theory, that action would appear highly unlikely given the current makeup of the legislature.

In general, it appears that these vetoes were designed to both send a message and bring the legislature back into dialogue with the aim of developing a budget supplemental over the next weeks and months. At the same time, this approach also avoided a partial government shutdown had the budgets been vetoed outright.

One of the biggest sources of funding toward which Governor Whitmer applied her veto pen within the School Aid budget was the entire \$40 million worth of appropriations connected to the Talent Investment Fund (TIF), part of former Governor Snyder’s “Marshall Plan” program. Another \$35 million amount vetoed came by denying the Foundation Allowance increase allocated for charter schools. Additionally, another 26 lines vetoed – totaling nearly another \$35 million – were funding for programs provided by specific non-governmental companies and other entities used by very few schools.

Here is the complete list of SAF items vetoed:

- Public School Academy Foundation Allowance Increase (Sect. 20 - \$35 million)
- Small, Isolated Districts (Sect. 22d - \$7 million)
- Strict Discipline Academies (Sect. 25f - \$1.6 million)
- Dropout Recovery Programs (Sect. 25g - \$750,000)
- Year-Round Literacy Instruction Grants (Sect. 31b - \$750,000) – all of this allocation came from the TIF
- Local Produce in School Meals (Sect. 31j - \$2 million) – all of this amount came from the state’s General Fund (not the SAF)
- Michigan Literacy Corps Early Literacy Programs (Sect. 35a(7) - \$3 million) – all of this funding came from the TIF, and was earmarked for a non-profit that places AmeriCorps staff in schools to work with literacy interventions

- Principal Training on Literacy Essentials (Sect 35a(9) - \$300,000)
- Summer School Literacy Intervention Grants (Sect. 35a(11) - \$15 million) – tied to the third grade reading law
- Children’s Choice Initiative (Sect. 35b - \$350,000) – a “multisensory structured language education method” out of Bay City; allocation for PD and additional instructional time
- Multi-Sensory Education (Sect. 35c - \$300,000) – an allocation related to that above, providing for a pilot program of this method
- Social-Emotional Learning Pilot (Sect. 35d - \$500,000) – for an ISD pilot
- English Language Learner Equipment Grants (Sect. 41 - \$3 million) – this was more TIF money vetoed; another \$13 million remains that was allocated from other SAF monies
- Autism Interventions (Sect. 54e - \$350,000) – for a pilot Early On program of parent-implemented interventions
- Conductive Learning Center (Sect. 55 - \$250,000) – for the model taught at the center at Aquinas College for children and adults with neuromotor disabilities
- Culinary Arts Education (Sect. 61a(4) - \$100,000) – TIF money to have been administered by the Michigan Restaurant and Lodging Association
- CTE Early/Middle Colleges (Sect. 61b - \$2 million) – this strikes the TIF portion of funding; another \$8 million from the regular SAF is still funded
- CTE Equipment (Sect. 61c - \$16 million) – this amount represents the total allocation within this section, all of which came from the TIF
- CTE Per Pupil Incentive Payments (Sect. 61d - \$5 million) – this is half of the original \$10 million allocated to this section and came from TIF funds; the remaining \$5 million from the regular SAF was not vetoed
- Pipeline 2 Promise (Sect. 61f - \$200,000) – grant using TIF funds to a provider with “an innovative retention and completion program designed to create a seamless educational and career pathway support structure”
- IT Certifications (Sect. 64d - \$2.3 million) – another TIF program that would have provided a grant to Microsoft to provide instruction in IT certifications
- College Board Career Finder (Sect. 67a - \$80,000) – grant to create a career exploration pilot program
- MITES (Sect. 67b - \$50,000) – grant to the Michigan Industrial and Technology Education Society
- Value-Added Growth and Projection Analysis System (Sect. 95b - \$2.5 million) – to make the EVAAS system available to districts
- Secure Schools (Sect. 97 - \$10 million) – includes up to \$3.8 million for the Panic Button app, with the remainder available for district grants
- Michigan Job Bank (Sect. 97a - \$1.5 million) – also from TIF funds
- Michigan Virtual University (Sect. 98 - \$1.075 million) – this represents roughly 14.5% of the total allocation for MVU coming from the TIF; the remainder of the MVU budget is still funded from the regular SAF
- FIRST Robotics for Non-Public Schools (Sect. 99h - \$300,000)
- Online Algebra Tool (Sect. 99t - \$1.5 million) – a much-publicized TIF allocation for a tool from Algebra Nation
- Online Math Tool (Sect. 99u - \$1.5 million) – more TIF money, this time going toward a program from Imagine Learning
- Spanish Education Software (Sect. 99u - \$500,000) – another TIF/Imagine Learning program
- Online Literacy Tool (Sect. 99u - \$1 million) – the third TIF/Imagine Learning item

- Dana Center (Sect. 99v - \$25,000) – this program is located at the University of Texas and seeks to create “seamless transitions throughout the K-14 system”; this is another TIF allocation
- Fitness Foundation (Sect. 99w - \$500,000) – more from TIF toward this organization to create a physical education curriculum
- Teach for America (Sect. 99x - \$800,000) – would pay for a summer training institute in Detroit, recruit teachers into a master teaching fellowship, and retain a committed alumni community
- Square One (Sect. 99z - \$300,000) – TIF money for STEM-related programming from this organization in Southfield
- Best Buddies (Sect. 99bb - \$250,000) – grant to assist individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities with gaining access to employment opportunities and life skills
- Financial Analysis Tools (Sect. 102d - \$1.5 million) – for reimbursements to districts that purchase these tools
- Computer Adaptive Tests (Sect. 104d - \$9.2 million) – would reimburse districts for diagnostic/universal screening tools or benchmark assessments
- Non-Public Schools Reimbursements (Sect. 152b - \$250,000) – would have reimbursed non-public schools for their expenses incurred in meeting state mandates

Through the anticipated follow-up negotiations between Governor Whitmer and the legislature, it may be that some of these items could reappear as part of a budget supplemental. However, they are out for now. As of this time, there is no word yet on what will happen with the \$128.6 million that will not be expended as a result of these vetoes; that funding could end up being carried forward to next year, or it could be used as part of the negotiations described above.

We will keep you updated as events continue to unfold. Please be sure to contact us if you have any questions.

Thanks,



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