



# SCHOOL EQUITY CAUCUS

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

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Dear Colleagues:

As we wrap up 2022, things have been very quiet in Lansing with Democrats preparing to take power in both houses of the Legislature for the first time in decades. There will undoubtedly be much news as the legislature is sworn in and begins its work in earnest. In the meantime, here are a few items as the calendar turns to the new year:

## 1. **General Meeting Registration Now Open!**

Registration is now open for the upcoming School Equity Caucus General Membership Meeting and Luncheon, to be held prior to the start of the MASA Midwinter Conference on Wednesday, January 18, 2023. Doors will open at 11:15 a.m., with the luncheon beginning at 11:30. We will wrap up by 12:45 p.m.

Click here to register: [Luncheon Registration Link](#)

Thanks to our business partners – Northland Securities, American Fidelity, and Christman Company – for their support of the luncheon and the work of the Caucus.

More information, including room location, will be distributed in the near future. We hope you can join us!

## 2. **Lame Duck Ends with a Whimper**

As projected, this year's legislative session ended extremely quietly with only a few education bills crossing the finish line:

- **HB 5777** (sponsored by Rep. Frederick, now P.A. 256) requires MDE to develop resources for the parents of children, ages 0 to 5, who are deaf or hard of hearing. These tools and assessments must be in place by September 1, 2025.
- **HB 6042** (sponsored by Rep. Mueller, now P.A. 257) allows school districts to submit plans of their buildings to emergency personnel in the form of electronic critical incident mapping data instead of (or in addition to) the currently required blueprints.

- One other bill, **HB 4188** (sponsored by Rep. Albert), passed the legislature but was vetoed by Governor Whitmer. This bill would have required the state retirement system to select one or more annuity vendors to provide a fixed rate annuity option to school employees in the state's defined contribution plan.

And with that, the legislature concluded its work. The new legislature, with a much different look, will be sworn in on January 11, 2023.

### 3. Revenue Update

The first official step in the 2023-24 budget process will take place with the next Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference (CREC) to be held on Friday, January 13. This meeting sees representatives of the House Fiscal Agency, Senate Fiscal Agency, and the State Treasurer's Office come together to determine how tax revenues are progressing in the current budget year, as well as providing a first look at how much revenue may be available for the next year. Governor Whitmer's budget proposal will utilize these numbers when it is released, typically in early February.

At the previous CREC, held in May, a decline in revenue of 1.1% was projected for the current fiscal year. It will be interesting to see how these projections are revised at the upcoming meeting.

The first actual revenue for the new fiscal year showed that revenues appear to continue to be strong, running at a combined 4.0% higher than a year ago. While income tax collections were down slightly, sales tax revenues continued to grow well. This is certainly hopeful news!

We will have a full report for you following the revenue conference.

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That's all for now! As always, please be in touch with questions or concerns. And may you and yours enjoy a wonderful 2023!



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