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**Fwd: MASB's News From the Capitol**

1 message

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**Keevin O'Neill** <[ko'neill@vicksburgschools.org](mailto:ko'neill@vicksburgschools.org)>  
To: Tamara Young <[tyoung@vicksburgschools.org](mailto:tyoung@vicksburgschools.org)>

Thu, Aug 7, 2025 at 9:30 AM

For legislative update in agenda.

**Keevin O'Neill**Superintendent  
Vicksburg Community Schools  
269-321-1002

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jennifer Smith & Brenda Pilgrim** <[masbgov@masb.org](mailto:masbgov@masb.org)>  
Date: Fri, Aug 1, 2025 at 12:19 PM  
Subject: MASB's News From the Capitol  
To: Keevin O'Neill <[koneill@vicksburgschools.org](mailto:koneill@vicksburgschools.org)>



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August 1, 2025

- **Another Month, More Delays**
- **Cell Phone Policy Fails in House**
- **Federal Government Releases Frozen Education Funds**
- **Attention Region 1 – Join Us for an Advocacy Day!**

### **Another Month, More Delays**

Since our last update on July 3, the House has convened session only once (July 24) and the Senate has not come in at all. Therefore, another month has passed, and we still have no movement on a School Aid or a General Fund budget. The next scheduled session day for both the House and Senate is August 12.

On Tuesday, MASB, MASA, MASO and MASSP, along with some of our members, held a press roundtable to [highlight the issues](#) that are being caused by the Legislature's failure to act. More than a dozen press outlets joined the conversation and heard from Piper Bognar, Superintendent of Van Dyke Public Schools, JoLynn Clark, Principal of Frankenmuth High School, and Kimberly May, Wayne-Westland Community Schools Board President, about the real impact of the ongoing delay and continued uncertainty.

All the speakers reiterated that this is not a problem created by districts, but by the Legislature itself. The breakdown in the state budget process has real consequences for public school students and staff. We will continue to call on our elected leaders to do their job, end the manufactured crisis and get a quality budget done.

### **Cell Phone Policy Fails in House**

On the one day the House had session this month, it brought up [House Bill 4141](#), which would require school districts to have cell phone policies. The policies would have to limit use during instructional time but could have exemptions for medically necessary devices, school-issued tablets and laptops, and devices required under IEPs and 504 plans. The policies could also include exemptions for lesson-specific instructional use at the discretion of the classroom teacher.

The bill had bipartisan support when it was approved by the House Education and Workforce Committee in May. However, the day it was debated on the

floor, House Republicans were missing members and House Democrats voted together against any bill brought up for a vote. This meant that HB 4141 failed by a vote of 53-45 (56 votes are required for passage). Unfortunately, this is a tactic we also saw play out during the last session when the parties were reversed.

The bill may be brought up again in the future for a new vote, but at this point we don't expect that to happen until late fall.

### **Federal Government Releases Frozen Education Funds**

On Friday, July 25, the Trump administration and U.S. Education Department announced they would release [the remaining billions of dollars in education funding](#) it had withheld since the first of the month. About \$1.3 billion in money for after-school programs was released on July 18, but Friday's move marked the release of the remaining portion of the nearly \$7 billion in frozen funding. The administration, however, said it installed "guardrails" for the federal funds so that states and school districts cannot use it on programs that clash with the administrations policies.

Michigan will receive approximately \$137 million in federal funds for the following programs:

- **Title I-C:** Programs for migratory children (\$5.4 million).
- **Title II-A:** Support for effective teaching and professional development (\$63.7 million).
- **Title III-A:** Services and academic support for English language learners (\$12.9 million).
- **Title IV-A:** Student support and academic enrichment services and programs (\$38.4 million).
- **Adult Education:** Basic and literacy education and civics education (\$16.5 million).

Michigan received approximately \$36.8 million for Title IV-B to support before and after school programs.

Funding at the federal level remains uncertain as Congress turns to work on the 2025-2026 budget. Many of these programs may be targeted again in the new fiscal year. Keep talking to your Congresspeople, you are the best voice to put a face to these funds and explain how any cuts would affect their constituents.

### **Attention Region 1 – Join Us for an Advocacy Day!**

Calling all members in Region 1! MASB's Government Relations Team will be

Calling all members in Region 1! MASB's Government Relations team will be holding an Upper Peninsula Advocacy Summit on Monday, September 22, 2025, at the Ramada Inn in Marquette. [Register Today!](#)

The event will include a School Aid budget and legislative update, as well as an update from NSBA on federal activity. We have also invited the State Legislators that represent the Upper Peninsula to join us for panel discussions.

The evenings before and after the event, MASB will also be hosting four CBA classes to round out your time in Marquette. You can [register for them through the same link](#). On Sunday, from 2:30 -5:30 pm, will be CBA 276, Board/Superintendent Relations and CBA 325, Leadership: Overcoming Obstacles. On Monday from 2:30-5:30 p.m. there will be two new CBAs: CBA 299, Leading With Purpose: Advanced Leadership for School Board Members and CBA 305, Practical Governance: Case Studies in Effective School Board Leadership.

We hope to see you in Marquette!

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