

Karen Hill

From: Charlie Glaes
Sent: Friday, December 06, 2013 9:42 AM
To: Karen Hill
Subject: FW: Retention and Letter Grading Legislation Update

-----Original Message-----

From: masa-supt [mailto:masa-supt@listserv.melg.org]
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2013 6:27 PM
To: Charlie Glaes
Subject: Retention and Letter Grading Legislation Update

Members:

We wanted to update you briefly on today's legislative events. The House of Representatives met this afternoon and after caucusing it appears there are insufficient votes to pass retention and letter grading legislation at this time. Thank you for taking the time to contact your lawmakers and activate your grassroots networks.

These issues are not over and could be brought up on the house floor again as early as next week. We will keep updated as changes occur. Thank you again for your hard work.

Sent from my iPad

You are currently subscribed to masa-supt as: cglaes@vicksburgschools.org.

Karen Hill

From: Charlie Glaes
Sent: Friday, December 06, 2013 9:44 AM
To: Karen Hill
Subject: FW: Follow Up HB 5111 and 5112

From: Rep. Margaret O'Brien [mailto:district061@house.mi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2013 12:46 PM
To: David Campbell (dcampbell@kresa.org); 'RiceMF@kalamazoo.k12.mi.us' (RiceMF@kalamazoo.k12.mi.us); Charlie Glaes; Patrick Bird (pbird@mattawanschools.org); 'stitr@schoolcraftschools.org'; 'mbielang@portageps.org'
Subject: Follow Up HB 5111 and 5112

Gentlemen-

My apologies for not emailing you sooner. I have been in meetings (and now session) since 7am. I have not had the ability to call back Dr. Rice nor been able to call any of you with an update.

I expressed my concerns and your concerns with the bills. I agree the intent is good- HB 5111- to respond to concerns that were brought to Chairwoman Lyons' attention after the color coding system was implemented and to ensure an easily understood/transparent system. HB 5112- to bring up kids who are not at grade level reading.

Despite this, there needs to be time for the Legislature to digest the information and to see if there is a consensus on how to address the concerns. I have provided my own list based partly on the work I am doing with the student growth recommendation and evals and also based partly on your concerns. I am optimistic we will not be voting on this today. I have requested we delay until next year. I have also offered thoughts on academic transparency and welcomed the thought of a dashboard with multiple measures. Regarding 3rd grade reading, while it is tie barred to a bill encouraging more interventions, I worry that asking the MDE to look for options lacks teeth and lacks the force of state money to ensure it happens. I also have concerns with annual reading assessments of K-2.

Some have asked my opinion on the bills as to how I would vote. I told my colleagues that if we vote today, I am a no. BUT, I have left the door open that if there are changes that I believe reflect the concerns raised, I could change my vote. But I would have to see a number of changes.

Thank you for responding so quickly to me when I sent the information to you. I apologize that I have not been available each time you have called. I hope you find the above information helpful.

Margaret



A NEWS SERVICE FOR THE PEOPLE OF MICHIGAN FROM THE MACKINAC CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY

Despite Fewer Students, Michigan School Funding Going Up, Up, Up

Schools will receive more than half a billion dollars more from the state and federal government alone this year

By TOM GANTERT | Dec. 2, 2013 | [Follow Tom Gantert on Twitter](#)

The Michigan Department of Education will make its quarterly presentation on the number of school districts in deficit to the state legislature Dec. 12.

But perhaps lost in the discussion about funding is that the state and federal government have budgeted \$563 million more dollars for public school K-12 education in Michigan in 2013-14 than last year despite a drop of 6,100 students.

The state's [School Aid Budget](#), which funds K-12 education, increased from \$12.9 billion in 2012-13 to \$13.4 billion in 2013-14. Federal dollars jumped from \$1.701 billion last year to \$1.764 billion in 2013-14.

However, [student enrollment](#) over the last year in public schools dropped from 1,536,600 students to 1,530,500.

"They are actually getting more money and there are fewer kids in the program," said James Hohman, assistant director of fiscal policy at the Mackinac Center for Public Policy. "You can argue they are not getting as much as they want, but you cannot say that taxpayers are spending fewer dollars on K-12 education."

However, many school union officials and others will complain that school funding has been cut and that more money needs to be spent regardless of student enrollment counts or student achievement.

There were a number of districts that didn't submit financial information to the state by Nov. 15, said Glenda Rader, spokeswoman for the Office of State Aid and School Finance. Rader said the final numbers will be ready by the time Superintendent Mike Flanagan makes his quarterly presentation to the Legislature Dec. 12.

Flanagan [told the legislature in September](#) that unaudited figures showed there were 56 school districts with deficits.

