



SCHOOL EQUITY CAUCUS

Making a difference for the public school children of Michigan

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CAUCUS INFORMATION ALERT

September 8, 2010

Dear Colleague:

Re: SAF dollars for community colleges and the Education Jobs Act

Over the strenuous objections of the Caucus and other school organizations, the Senate just approved **HB 6086**. The bill would move \$208 million of SAF dollars to community colleges, thus allowing the state to use \$208 million of General Fund revenues for other, non-education programs. The bill passed on a largely bipartisan vote of 21-14. Some of the Senators who voted to approve the bill said they felt that schools would be taken care of with the \$312 million of federal Education Jobs Act dollars. They seem to have no concept of the extent to which schools have already been harmed by the state's school funding inaction and the funding disaster awaiting public schools in the 2011-12 school year.

The governor has yet to submit the state's application for the \$312 million **Ed Jobs Act** dollars. It is felt that before doing so she wants to see if some of her other funding priorities are approved by the Legislature. She has until tomorrow to submit the application, at which time she must decide if the money will be distributed to local districts and ISDs via the Foundation or Title One formula.

Within the context of the Foundation formula distribution option, there are several permutations. Three of the most widely assumed to still be in the conversation are: 1) a straight per pupil allocation with \$16 million for ISDs, 2) a straight allocation plus a 2X component, and 3) a straight 2X allocation. The Title One distribution scenario would be based on that formula. Each of the three Foundation and the Title One options produces winners and losers.

If you are interested in seeing how the various Ed Jobs Act distribution options affect your district, go online to the *Michigan House Fiscal Agency* web site, click on "What's New," and click on "Education Jobs Act." <http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa/schoolaid.asp>

Jerry