



Policy & Advocacy Update

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In Case You Missed It

- Legislature adjourned early.
- Impacts:
 - We weren't up all night in late December – Yay!
 - Nothing bad passed!
 - Sine Die moved up = Immediate Effect moved up
 - Important legislation will take effect February 13th



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Good Stuff Taking Effect

- 3rd grade reading retention repeal
- A-F letter grade accountability
- 401(k) opt in default



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The Not So Good

- PERA – prohibited subjects
- Removing prohibition on increases during negotiation



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The Meh...

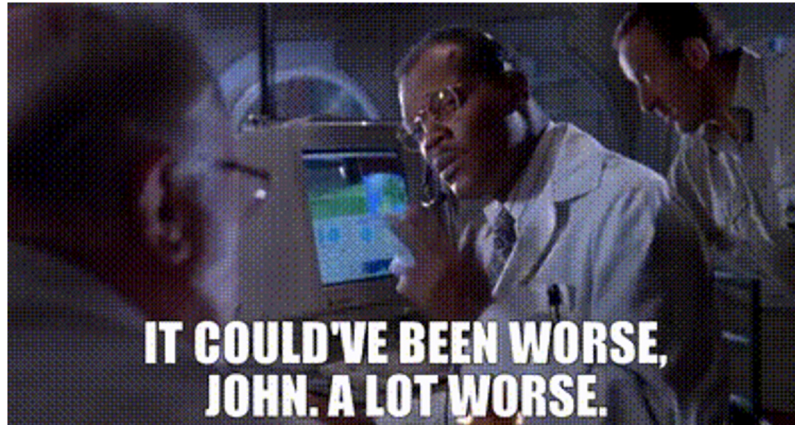
- Educator evaluations
- Automatic deduction of union dues



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Ed Evaluations (SB 395)

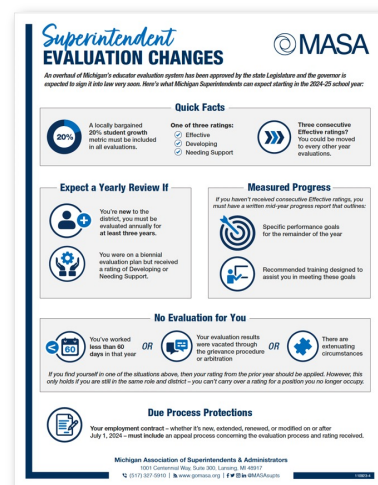


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Ed Evaluations (SB 395)

- Student growth reduced to 20% and determined locally.
- Changes the rating categories from four to three – eliminating “highly effective” and renaming them:
 - Effective
 - Developing
 - Needing Support



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Ed Evaluations (SB 395)

- Three consecutive effective ratings (new highest category)
 - Teachers can be evaluated tri-annually.
 - Administrators can be evaluated bi-annually.
- A teacher can request mediation on the “process” if deemed ineffective.
 - NOTE: It is not mandated.
- Adds a provision that allows for teachers to demand a grievance procedure on a second consecutive evaluation where the teacher scored “needs improvement.”

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Ed Evaluations (SB 395)

Two positive changes from the Senate passed bill:

- *Removed:* Language requiring a “just cause” standard for arbitration.
- *Removed:* Language requiring arbitration to go to MERC if there was no existing procedure.

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Ed Evaluations (SB 395)

- One More Important change:
 - Provision striking language which includes “1 or more examples of misconduct” from the definition of Unprofessional Conduct in the context of schools obtaining records of unprofessional conduct from applicants who taught elsewhere was **removed from the final bill**.

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Ed Evaluations (SB 395)

- Requires training for administrators.
- Requires 15-minute observation period.
- One observation “may” be unscheduled.
- For superintendents, contract must contain an appeals process.
 - For new or modified contracts after the law comes into effect.

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What's Coming Up?



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What's Coming Up?

- REMINDER: the House is split 54/54
- Democrats still technically in the majority, but functionally can pass very little on the floor.
- Sen. McDonald Rivet is running for Congress



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State of the State (two days ago)

- Removing income cap on GSRP
- Offering free community college for High School grads
- The big question – How will we pay for it?



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What's Coming Up?

- Executive Budget Recommendation in February.
- Appropriation Subcommittee meetings still possible – at least in the Senate.



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Reminders – FY 24 Budget

- \$458 per pupil foundation allowance increase (\$611 million)
 - 5% increase, bringing the total to \$9,608 per pupil (up from \$9,150 in FY 22-23)
- \$204 million increase in At-Risk funding and includes an opportunity index
- Special Education saw its biggest ever increase, while also continuing the new funding formula.
 - Overall, this was a \$310 million increase

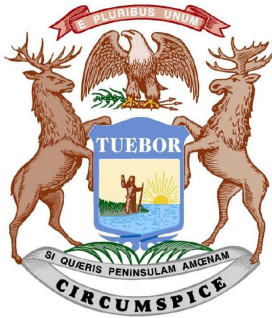


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ECONOMIC AND REVENUE FORECASTS

FY 2024 • FY 2025 • FY 2026



CONSENSUS REVENUE ESTIMATING CONFERENCE (CREC)

JANUARY 12, 2024

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CREC – 2024

- Increase of \$87.6 million in the School Aid Fund for FY 2024 (the current fiscal year) compared to the previous fiscal year.
- Estimates are higher for 2024 by \$359 million for the GF and \$58.8 million for the SAF, as compared to May 2023 estimates.
- Overall, for 2024, the state increased revenue in the General Fund to a total of nearly \$13.6 billion and \$17.9 billion in the School Aid Fund.
- For FY 2025, General Fund totals nearly \$14 billion and \$18.3 billion in School Aid.
 - This represents a 2% increase (\$360 million) in the School Aid Fund from the May 2023 estimates.

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FY 2024-25

- **KEY – Support the big buckets putting money in the classroom:**

- Foundation
- At-Risk
- Special Ed

- **Additional Areas:**

- Transportation categorical
- Safety and mental health
- MPSERS offset



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March - April

- The Senate will still have a functioning majority and will likely be somewhat active.
- The House...will not.
- Expect budget work, but likely no budget bills coming out of the House.



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April - June

- Special elections are in April.
- Expect House to be fully operational in beginning of May.
- Expect major priority to get a budget done for the summer and campaign.



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Summer / Fall



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Watch Out for Lame Duck



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Health Care Cost Sharing

- Overhauling or repealing 2011 change that resulted in 80/20 or hard cap continues to be a big priority for all unions.
- No movement yet.



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Pension Changes

- Lots of discussion that there is interest amongst unions in looking at strengthening pension system.
- Big key – potential costs.
- Reminder, bill passed that now defaults new employees into pension option if no election is made.



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Tenure Reform – 2011 Changes

- Standard for dismissal – arbitrary and capricious instead of just cause.
- Probationary teacher can be dismissed.



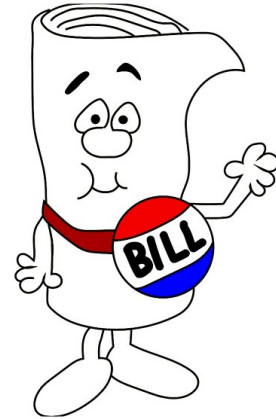
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Other Possible Legislation

- Dyslexia: Could pass the Senate this Spring – still likely a lame duck issue.
- Charter School Transparency: Rep. Koleszar introduced bills before they adjourned last year.
- Seclusion and Restraint: Periodically in the news.



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Political Update

- House is up this election cycle.
 - Democrats will *likely* have a 56-54 margin.
 - Losing ONE seat results in shared power.
 - Losing TWO results in GOP taking the majority.
- Possibly a seat in the Senate is up as well, depending on results of Congressional race.



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Political Update

- Michigan GOP Party... or Parties?
- U.S. Senate
 - Sen. Stabenow retiring
 - Rep. Slotkin vs. ?
- Presidential race



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Redistricting

- 13 Districts in metro Detroit area must be redrawn after a federal court ruled they violated the Equal Protection clause restricting lines drawn based on race.
 - Ripple effect throughout the entire state.
- Redistricting commission must have new maps completed by March 29.



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Federal Update

- New speaker! Monthly threat to shutdown the government.
- Expect a late Liquidation Template for American Rescue Plan funding.
 - Make sure you're up-to-date on requirements. All funding must be obligated by September 30, 2024.
- Title IX Final Rule is expected in March – will touch on both sexual harassment/discrimination and as well as athletics.
- Will Congress actually pass a budget, or just keep with a Continuing Resolution?



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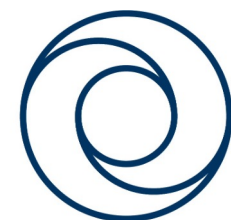
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Small and Rural Taskforce

A group to voice concerns and advocate

- Lobby Day in October
- Virtual Meetings once a month
- New members welcome!



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BUDGET



- Reduce or eliminate competitive grants for schools to receive important funding
 - Small and rural schools do not have a dedicated member of staff to apply for state funding though a grant process leaving essential funding left on the table
 - Allow school districts the flexibility to use school safety and mental health funds in the best way for their school



- Accessible funding and reduce state regulations for before and after school care for elementary school students



- Adequately fund school transportation improving on the separate transportation categorical from the most recent budget.
 - Apply a rural multiplier to the foundation to address the lack of resources in rural settings



- Continue to support our five remote and island school districts with annual 22d2 funding
 - Revise 22d2 funding from one-time to on-going, annual \$3.8M appropriation

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POLICY PRIORITIES



- Create and support pathways for rural school districts to provide housing for teachers and school staff
 - The educator shortage in rural areas is exacerbated by lack of affordable housing in remote parts of the state



- Streamline State Reporting to minimize the administrative burden on rural schools
 - Small and rural schools struggle to find administrative staff and are left with Central Office staff being overstretched with the reporting requirements required by the State



- Continue to invest in funding for Educator Recruitment and Retention to help alleviate the educator shortage crisis
 - Revise retirement benefits for school employees including professional and support staff
 - Provide flexibility in teacher certification for small and rural districts during the current critical staff shortage period

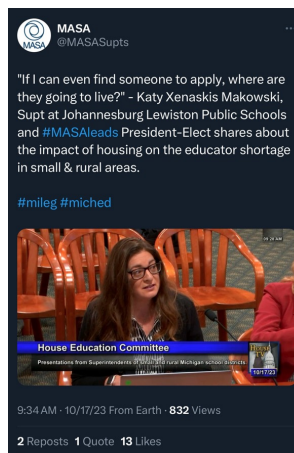


- Invest in increasing broadband connectivity and affordability for unserved and underserved areas like the Upper Peninsula and Northern Lower Michigan
 - Create incentives for companies to provide services to low populated areas

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Testimony – House Ed Committee



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Influencing Policy Development

**"Young people cite housing affordability as one of their top concerns.
...School districts need housing for teachers who nowhere else to go.
...The rent is too damn high, and we don't have enough damn housing!"**

Good morning and Happy New Year,

I wanted to let you know we have submitted a bill request for the teacher housing issue. I will share the bill draft with you when I receive it for you to review before proceeding.

Best,

Cherryl Khoury

Chief of Staff, Sen. John Damoose



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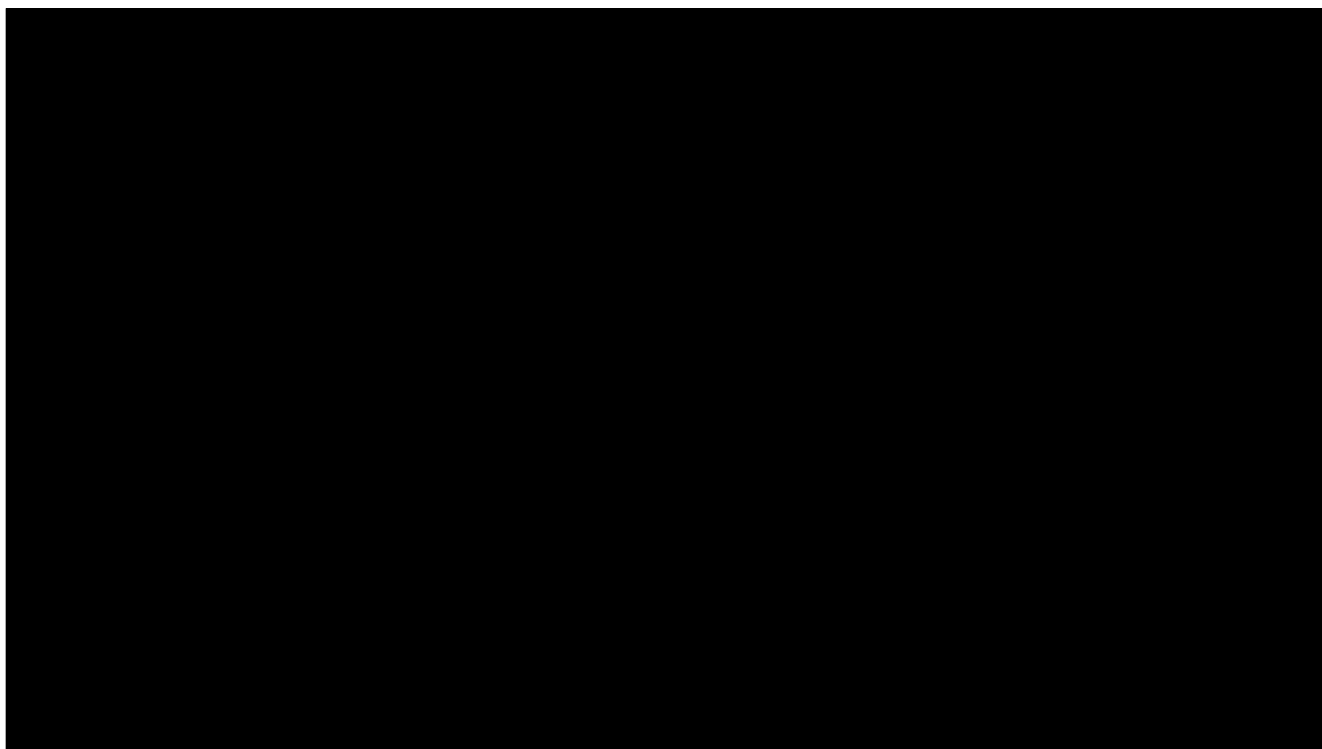
We're Here to Help!

- Lawmaker Booklet
- Discussion on the Legislative and Appropriations process
- Best practices on conducting Legislative meetings
- Tips on engaging with your elected officials



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