

**MSCA BUDGET UPDATE (corrected)
Wednesday, May 12, 2021**

Today represents the half-way point of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-2022 budget negotiation process: House proposals have passed and been sent to the Senate; Senate proposals have passed and been sent to the House. Note: Michigan's fiscal year begins on October 1. In terms of timing, the legislature will likely continue to negotiate boilerplate and policy issues behind the scenes, but the hard number negotiations will have to pause until next Friday, May 21, for the annual Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference. At that meeting, the House, Senate, and Treasury come to agreement on the total amount of funds available upon which to build the State budget. The legislature hopes to pass final budgets before July.

Some details of interest to school counselors:

Senate-passed School Aid Budget for FY 21-22

In General

- Senate added \$308 million to the foundation allowance, ranging from \$125-\$250 per pupil;
- Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) per-child full-day payment increased to \$8,275;
- \$1.4 million to TRAILS, a new line item establishing a competitive grant program for ISDs to support the TRAILS program, which provides training to school mental health professionals;
- Section 31a At-Risk and Special Ed each received a 2% increase; special education is a cost reimbursement increase; At-Risk is an increase.

Categoricals

- Orton-Gillingham dyslexia tool retained;
- Senate added \$4 million to "dropout recovery" program from a vendor.

Senate Boilerplate/Program

- Pupils and pupil count: 90/10 blend (90% count of 10/21 and 10% count of 2/21); can include students learning remotely if their school was closed due to health order or parental decision to stay home;
- Days and Hours - 75% average daily requirement waived for first half of '21-'22 school year for days when parents decide to keep their students home or schools are closed due to order; district must ensure equivalent of 549 hours/90 days during the first half of the year. Second half of the year, schools must be fully in-person, no exception.

Section 31n, School Mental Health and Support Services

- Senate proposes a \$20 million increase
- Includes masters-level exception, if ISD is unable to find qualified professionals, notifies MDE, and MDE agrees

- Additional language provides a “base” allowance, and then distributes remaining funds after the base allocation (\$525,000) like per-pupil funding, to help both larger and smaller districts either not have any lapsed funds (the allotment was more than they could spend, for a smaller ISD) or have enough funding in the first place to get a program going (larger districts)
- Note: the 31n Advisory Committee is weighing-in on this concept.

Dropout Prevention

- \$100 placeholder
- “Program that provides dropout prevention solutions for at-risk students and disengaged learners by offering during-school social and emotional learning, enrichment, career explorations, and counseling

Early Literacy 35a

Broad changes, focusing on professional development for early literacy teachers and coaches (Sec. 35a of the budget) in the following sections:

- ISDs may use funds to administer department-approved screening and diagnostic tools to monitor the development of early literacy and early reading skills, and risk factors for word-level reading difficulties...to inform instruction through prevention and intervention in a multi-tiered system of supports framework. (subsection 2)
- Develop “early literacy coaching capacity” (subsection 3)
- Funding distribution and prioritization (subsection 4)
- Reporting requirements concerning number of available literacy coaches (subsection 7b)
- Includes “math essentials”
- How and in what teachers and “coaches” are to be trained (subsection 9), which has some parallels to [SB 380](#)

House-passed School Aid Budget for FY 21-22

In General

- House added \$125.5 million to the foundation allowance, ranging from \$50 - \$100 per pupil
- \$20 million added to help schools with a special education millage meet their expected income
- \$11.5 million grant to schools for districts to implement a benchmark assessment system
- \$10 million for “school safety grants via tech
- GSRP per-child full-day payment increased to \$8,275

New Item

- New boilerplate, Section 99aa
- Creates a job-seeking program for high school seniors with disabilities
- Called “Project SEARCH”
- One "eligible" ISD, at \$450k

Categorical Reductions

- Eliminates Orton-Gillingham (dyslexia) tool
- Eliminates Return to Learn Study

31a At-Risk

- Several provisions stricken in the name of broadening how the funds can be used in school districts
- Funds can be used by “support staff providing services to at-risk pupils” (formerly: instructional or behavioral coaches)
- At-risk definition expanded to include Pre-K

House Boilerplate/Program

Section 31n, School Mental Health and Support Services

- \$4.3 million increase to ISDs to hire more behavioral health providers
- No other changes

Early Literacy 35a

- No changes but to eliminate math essentials recommended by Executive; and eliminating the PreK Reading Corps and the K3 Reading Corps