

**Legislative Update for the
Michigan School Counselor Association (MSCA) Board**

June 3, 2022

Legislative Environment

- Top priority is completing work on FY 22-23 Budget by July 1 deadline. New fiscal year begins October 1.
- May Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference revised state revenues upwards by \$5 billion: an increase of \$2.99 billion from earlier predictions in the current 2021-22 fiscal year, and an increase of \$2.03 billion from earlier predictions for the upcoming 2022-23 fiscal year.
- Returning some of this surplus in some form to tax payers is gathering bipartisan support.
- Last week, the Senate passed a proposed three-month suspension of the state's tax on motor fuel, along with a proposed suspension of the sales tax on motor fuels.
- While the Governor vetoed earlier tax cut proposals, the two bills which just arrived on her desk yesterday (House Bill 4568 and Senate Bill 784) may have her support. The bills reduce revenues by about \$2.7 billion when fully enacted and included proposals to lower the personal income tax, increase in the Earned Income Tax Credit and provide a child tax credit.

“SMART” Internship Grant Program Legislation Advances

Senate Bill (SB) 1012 (sponsored by Sen. Curt VanderWall, R-Ludington), to establish the Student Mental Health Apprenticeship Retention and Training (SMART) internship grant program, was passed unanimously by the Senate in Mid-May, and is now before the House Health Policy Committee. SB 1012 and its twin in the House, House Bill (HB) 6020 (sponsored by Rep. Bronna Kahle, R-Adrian), would provide hourly or lump sum payments to graduate students for their supervised internship hours in a school. The program would also provide a small stipend for supervisors. To review the current text and analyses of the bills, go [here](#).

As MSCA members know, the FY 2021-22 School Aid Budget includes brand-new funding under Section 31o for schools to hire certified school counselors, school social workers, school psychologists and school nurses. The SMART program, if passed, is intended to accelerate the number of professionals available to fill these jobs. The proposed program will allow a school to maintain a paid, supervised school counselor intern until their hours are met and they are fully credentialed. At that point, the school may now leverage their existing relationship with that professional and utilize 31o dollars to maintain their position at the school for another three plus years.

As reported in the last MSCA Board report, one of the only buckets of new money included by the Senate in its version of the School Aid budget for FY 22-23 was \$15 million for the SMART Program. While budget negotiations are ongoing, it's worth taking a moment to thank Senator Wayne Schmidt, Chair of the Senate School Aid Appropriations Subcommittees, for being a staunch champion for school counselors!

Bill Requiring Informational Packets on Post-Graduation Opportunities Signed

On May 26, the Governor signed House Bill 4953 (S-3) (sponsored by Rep. David Martin, R-Davison), which requires the annual distribution of an informational packet on post-graduation opportunities to all students in grades 8 to 12. The new [Public Act 88 of 2022](#) requires the MI Department of Education (MDE) to annually develop/update and make available to all schools an informational packet, consisting of a collection of links to web-based exploratory programs or written material shared in electronic form, to include the following:

- The location of school districts, intermediate school districts, and public school academies that choose to offer early/middle college programs, advanced placement (AP) programs, and college-level examination programs (CLEP) that are available under state or federal law to pupils enrolled in any of grades 8 to 12;
- Information regarding the average tuition and average fees associated with attendance at each public university and community college in this state;
- The 6-year success rate for each public university and community college in this state.
- Information regarding the dollar value for student loans disbursed, the number of unique student loans, and the number of unique recipients who received student loans incurred by individuals attending a postsecondary institution in this state;
- A list of at least 10 postsecondary vocational training opportunities for individuals who have been awarded a high school diploma or who have been granted a high school equivalency certificate;
- A list of at least 20 of the most in-demand occupations in this state, as determined by the department;
- A list of public and private resources designed to aid pupils and the parents and legal guardians of pupils in navigating postsecondary education;
- A list of public-service opportunities for high school graduates, including opportunities available for high school graduates in the public-safety sector;
- Information regarding any postsecondary training and tuition assistance available to those who choose a career in public service.

MDE is required to develop and post the informational packet on its website no later than August 1, 2023, and by not later than August 1 each year thereafter. School superintendents or chief administrators are required by not later than October 1, 2023 (and October 1 each year thereafter) to provide, in electronic form or nonelectronic form, the informational packet to each pupil enrolled grades 8 to 12.

House Bills Revising Michigan Merit Exam Advance in the Senate

[House Bills 4810 \(S-2\) & 4811](#) , both supported by MSCA, were passed - with some amendments - by the Senate Education and Career Readiness Committee on May 18. The bills now await a vote by the full Senate. Changes to the Michigan Merit Examination (MME) in HB 4810 (S-2) include:

- Deletes a provision requiring the assessment instruments portion of the MME to require a writing component in which the pupil produces an extended writing sample;
- Requires the MME to be aligned with Michigan's content standards;
- Modifies a provision requiring a school district or public school academy (PSA) to include on a high school graduate's transcript the pupil's scaled score on each subject area component of the MME;
- Modifies the dates on which the MME must be administered;
- Requires the MME to be administered to certain pupils enrolled in a middle college program; and

- Requires MDE to include, on each report made by the Department that included the statewide assessment results for a school building, the scores for the statewide assessment and the graduation rate for consortium pupils with the scores for the school building in the participating district in which the consortium pupil was enrolled or otherwise would attend.

House Bill 4811 (H-1) would repeal Section 104b of the State School Act, which requires a district to administer the MME in order to receive State aid under the Act and generally prescribes the requirements of the MME.

Legislation Making WorkKeys Optional Advances to Senate Floor

In Mid-May, the Senate Education and Career Readiness Committee passed two bills making the ACT WorkKeys© test optional. HB 4037, sponsored by Rep. Pamela Hornberger (R-Chesterfield Twp.), and HB 4038, by Rep. John Reilly (R-Oakland), are a reintroduction of legislation which passed the House 85-24 in the 2019-2020 session but stalled in the Senate. The bills would make the test optional for school districts, although the state would continue to provide funding. You can find the most current analysis of the bills [here](#).

Special Elections fill House Vacancies

The recent May 3rd election included four special elections to fill vacancies in the House of Representatives. New House members are:

- House District (HD)#15 Jeffrey Pepper (D-Dearborn)
- HD #36 Terence Mekoski (R-Macomb Co.)
- HD #43 Mike Harris (R-Clarkston)
- HD #74 Carol Glanville (D-Walker)

Looking Ahead – Election Year Reminders

The 2022 Primary and General Elections include all 110 seats in the House, all 38 seats in the Senate, all 13 Congressional seats (we lost one seat in the last census), all statewide seats (Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State), as well as a myriad of other state and local races. This is also the first time ever that Michigan’s new legislative district maps, drawn in response to the 2020 US Census, were drawn by an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (instead of the parties with majority control of the Legislature).

Important Dates

Elections

August 2, 2022	State Primary
November 8, 2022	State General Election

Voter Registration

July 18, 2022: Last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the local clerk for the August primary.

July 19 through 8:00 p.m. August 2, 2022: In-person registration with local clerk with proof of residency.

October 24, 2022: Last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the local clerk for the November general election.

October 25 through 8:00 p.m. November 8, 2022: In-person registration with local clerk with proof of residency.