

Education Budgets Clear House

The House passed its School Aid, Higher Education, Community College, and Department of Education budgets for the 2009 - 2010 fiscal year before leaving for their two-week spring break. House budget bills use Federal stimulus money to fill revenue shortfalls due to falling tax collections. All education budget bills now move to the Senate for their consideration.

2009 - 2010 School Aid Budget (HB 4447)

The House recommends total funding of \$13,132,308,775 for the 2010 fiscal year. Listed below are highlights of the House passed School Aid Budget:

Maintains Current Law and Funding Levels:

- ▶ Foundation Allowance (Sec. 20)
- ▶ Hold Harmless Districts (Sec. 20j)
- ▶ ISDs General Operations - \$81,721,100 (Sec. 81)
- ▶ Math Remediation Grants - \$725,000 (Sec. 99a)
- ▶ Pupil Membership Definition for Small Districts (Sec. 6(4)(y))
- ▶ Isolated District Funding - \$2,025,000 (Sec. 22d)
- ▶ Declining Enrollment Grants - \$20,000,000 (Sec. 29)
- ▶ Great Parents Great Start ISD Programs - \$5,000,000 (Sec. 32j)
- ▶ Great Start School Readiness – District Grants (Sec. 32d)
- ▶ Bilingual Education State Grants - \$2,800,000 (Sec. 41)
- ▶ 21st Century School Fund - \$15,000,000 (Sec. 11n)

Concurs with Governor's Recommendations:

MPERS Retirement Rate: Estimates percentage of payroll districts must pay for public school employee retirement at 16.94%. (Sec. 147)

Health/Science Middle College Grants: Appropriates \$2,000,000 for FY 2009 - 2010. Expands the middle college program to include other career fields and expands consortiums to other entities than just hospitals. (Sec. 64)

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Michigan Virtual University (MVU) and Math and Science Centers: Adds new language that requires both the MVU and Math and Science Network in conjunction with the Department to implement an "Algebra 4 All" initiative to offer online and face-to-face professional development opportunities for mathematics teachers in grades 8 to 12 that promote best practices for teaching algebra to all students. (Sec. 98 and 99)

Academic Improvement Grants: Eliminates funding and repeal section. (Sec. 99e)

House Revisions to Current Law:

Days of Instruction: Adds to the current 1,098 hours requirement that a district must provide at least 170 days of instruction. A day is defined as at least 5 hours of student contact time. (Sec. 101)

Kindergarten Membership: Postpones implementation dates for funding changes for 2 years, so the developmental kindergarten changes would take effect for 2011-2012 and the required kindergarten instructional hours for a full foundation allowance would move to 60% for 2012-2013 and 70% for 2013-2014. Also includes *intent* that districts increase parent-school contact. (Sec. 6(4)(r))

Instructional Sites Within the Boundaries of Another District: Prohibits any district after 2008 - 2009 from counting pupils in membership at an instructional site within the boundaries of another district unless given approval by the resident district. (Sec. 6(6)).

"At-Risk" Grants: Appropriates \$318,881,250 in FY 2009 - 2010. At-Risk funding equals \$308,988,250. Reduces the exceptions to the funding formula for **Dearborn** and Baldwin School Districts by 25%. (Sec. 31a)

Vocational Education: Reduces appropriation to \$29,902,825 for FY 2009 - 2010. (Sec. 61a)

Adult Education: Reduces appropriation to \$23,700,000 for current adult education programs. Maintains current law language but requires DELEG in conjunction with the Adult Education Advisory Board to create an Adult Learning Planning Group by Sept. 30, 2009 and evaluate a number of proposed issues and changes and make reports to DELEG and to the Legislature by December 1, 2009 and March 31, 2010. (Sec. 107)

New Section:

Consolidation/Transition Grant: Appropriates \$3,000,000 for FY 2009 - 2010 for transition costs associated with district consolidation of 2 or more districts at \$50 per pupil. Consolidation must be prior to July 1, 2010. Priority in awarding grants should be given to districts that formed with another district that had an operating deficit. (Sec. 22f)

2009 - 2010 Higher Education Budget (HB 4441)

The House recommends total funding of \$1,719,405,300 for the 2010 fiscal year. **Listed below are highlights of the House passed budget recommendations:**

University Operations: Maintains operations appropriations to 15 state universities at current levels with funding from Education portion of State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) under federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

King-Chavez-Parks Program: Retains total funding amount of \$5.3 million GF/GP for six components of King-Chavez-Parks Program, but replaces 3.0% of GF/GP funding for competitive grant line items with funding from General Government Services portion of SFSF under ARRA. (Secs. 501-507)

Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service: Retains total current-year funding amounts in distinct line items, but replaces 3.0% of GF/GP funding for line items with funding from Education portion of SFSF under ARRA. The House also adds \$3.5 million GF/GP for bioeconomy research and development at **Michigan State**.

Tuition Restraint: Requires that funds appropriated from SFSF of ARRA be used to mitigate tuition/fee increases or modernize/renovate/repair facilities, consistent with ARRA provisions; requires report on use of funds. (Sec. 436)

Listed below are highlights of House's budget recommendation for Financial Aid:

Need-Based Financial Aid Programs: Retains total current-year funding amounts for five need-based programs, but replaces 3.0% of GF/GP funding for programs with funding from General Government Services portion of SFSF under ARRA.

Promise Grant Program: Concurs with the Governor's increased appropriation from \$80.5 million to \$140.0 million to pay costs of \$2,000/\$4,000 awards to students who became eligible for program in 2007 and have now completed two years of postsecondary education; increase of \$59.5 million (Merit Award Trust Fund).

Tuition Incentive Program: Concurs with the Governor's increased appropriation by \$6.0 million (23.8%; Merit Award Trust Fund) to reflect a continued increase in the number of Medicaid-eligible students participating in the program, which primarily pays tuition costs of associate's degree programs.

2009 - 2010 Community College Budget (HB 4435)

The House recommends maintaining the current community college funding at **\$299,360,500** for the 2010 fiscal year. **Listed below are highlights of the House passed budget recommendations:**

Community College Operations: Maintains overall FY 2008-09 funding level totaling \$292,557,800, but recalibrates individual line items for Indian tuition waiver costs. (*Henry Ford Community College - \$20,834,100; Kirtland Community College - \$2,843,800; Lansing Community College - \$29,755,500; and Wayne County Community College - \$15,848,700.*)

Renaissance Zone Reimbursements: Maintains FY 2008-09 funding levels for each community college. Appropriation of \$3,480,000 reimburses college districts for lost property tax revenue due to renaissance zones in district.

At-Risk Student Success Program: Maintains FY 2008-09 funding levels for each community college totaling \$3,322,700. Appropriation amounts to individual colleges are adjusted based on updated at-risk student data. (Sec. 401)

ARRA State Fiscal Stabilization Fund - General Government Services: Includes \$97,000,000 of the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund - General Government Services (ARRA) portion to fund workforce development, job creation, and job retraining at the community colleges. (Sec. 103)

Capital Outlay: The House maintains current-year language. (Sec. 217)

Tuition Restraint Policy: Revises by specifying that community colleges receiving federal stimulus funds not raise tuition and fees for in-district students by more than the annual average percentage increase in the United States consumer price index in the immediately preceding tax year plus one-half percent. (Sec. 248)

Consolidation or Dissolution: Includes as new section stating *intent* that legislature develop and enact legislation that would provide rules and guidelines for the consolidation or dissolution of community college districts. (Sec. 249) - **NEW**

Part-Time Faculty: Includes as new section stating *intent* that a discussion take place regarding the treatment of part-time faculty pay, benefits, and job security; specifically those part-time faculty with the equivalent of a full-time academic workload. (Sec. 251) - **NEW**

Fiscal Stabilization Funds: Includes as new section specifying distribution of and restrictions on general government services ARRA fiscal stabilization funds. (Sec. 405) - **NEW**

AFT Michigan has issues with House Bill 4435 as it passed the House regarding: the level of funding; discussion on part-time faculty; and the Indian Tuition Waiver. Please take a moment and send a letter to your State Senator asking him/her to support community colleges. Go to the AFT Michigan website at: www.aftmichigan.org and click on "send letter to State Senators" under the "Support Community College" heading.

2009 - 2010 Department of Education Budget (HB 4438)

The House recommends funding of **\$120,624,000** for the 2010 fiscal year Department of Education Budget. **Listed below are highlights of the House passed budget recommendation:**

Alternative Teaching Certification Programs: Maintains funding of \$100,000 each for Central Michigan University alternative route to certification program and **Wayne State University** pathways to teaching program. (Sec. 503)

National Board Certification: Maintains funding of \$100,000 and current language requiring the Department to pay 1/2 the application fee for teachers applying to the National Board Certification Program. (Sec. 504)

Stimulus Supplemental for Education (HB 4258)

Governor Granholm has signed **House Bill 4258 (Cushingberry, D-Detroit), to become Public Act 7, 2009**. The bill will allow \$1.8 billion in stimulus money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to be used for job training, education and other programs in Michigan. **The supplemental includes the following funding to be used for education purposes:**

Special Education IDEA - Allocates \$400.6 million in federal funds as formula grants to districts by the current formula under Part B; distributes \$13.4 million for handicapped preschool incentive grants (aged 3 through 5) on existing eligibility criteria established in Part B of IDEA; and distributes \$12.4 million for handicapped infants and toddlers based on existing eligibility criteria in Part C of IDEA.

Disadvantage Children (Title 1-A) - Recognizes \$390.1 million in federal Title I, Part A funds to districts on the existing eligibility criteria established in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) for targeted and education finance incentive grant formula.

School Improvement - Recognizes \$75 million in federal funds to districts for school improvement purchases.

Homeless Children and Youth - Recognizes \$2.45 million in federal funds to improve the academic achievement of homeless children. The Governor recommends that the grants be disbursed on a competitive basis.

School Lunch Equipment Assistance - Recognizes \$2.5 million in new federal revenues for competitive grants to districts based upon demonstrated need for equipment assistance with a priority for schools in which more than 50% of students are eligible for free or reduced lunch.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) - Recognizes an additional \$4.1 million in federal funds for commodities through TEFAP and to help pay for the costs associated with the distribution of the commodities. TEFAP provides supplemental food to local community action agencies and the Food Bank Council of Michigan through a State Board of Education approved allocation formula.

REMINDER: Teacher Reading Requirements

Effective July 1, 2009, satisfactory completion of a three-credit course of study with appropriate field experiences in the diagnosis and remediation of reading disabilities and differentiated instruction is required for **ALL** teachers holding a provisional teaching certificate.

- ▶ Teachers applying for the renewal of a provisional certificate or for a professional certificate after July 1, 2009, must document completion of a three-credit course of study with appropriate field experiences in the diagnosis and remediation of reading disabilities and differentiated instruction.
- ▶ The course of study should include, but is not limited to, the following elements as determined by the department to be appropriate for the person's certification level and endorsements: interest inventories, English language learning screening, visual and auditory discrimination tools, language expression and processing screening, phonemics, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, comprehension, spelling and writing assessment tools and instructional strategies.
- ▶ Teacher preparation institutions may offer this required advanced reading course as part of the planned 18 credit hour program.
- ▶ Online courses must also have the appropriate field experiences.

*Source: Michigan Department of Education
Office of Professional Preparation Services
Reference Manual – Fall 2008*

AFT Michigan's Town-Hall Meeting at DFT

We would like to thank the Detroit Federation of Teachers for hosting a town-hall meeting with their Legislators on March 30, 2009. Senators Irma Clark-Coleman, Hansen Clarke, and Martha G. Scott (staff), as well as Representatives Timothy Bledsoe, George Cushingberry, Bert Johnson, Bettie Cook Scott, Rashida Tlaib, Jimmy Womack, and Coleman Young attended this meeting.

Approximately 75 members represented the Detroit Association of Education Office Employees, Detroit Federation of Paraprofessionals, Detroit Federation of Teachers, Wayne County Community College Federation of Teachers, and Wayne State University at the meeting.

We thank our members for making this meeting a tremendous success. **Remember to keep in contact with your Legislators throughout the 95th session, so they know what we need to provide the best possible education for Michigan's citizens.**

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**Deadline ---
Rapidly Approaching**



**LOBBY DAY 2009
WEDNESDAY, MAY 13**



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Register Today!

LOBBY DAY - MAY 13, 2009
Register on Line at: www.aftmichigan.org