



Proration “Fix” Stalled in Senate

On November 5, the House approved a substitute **House Bill 4860** that would **use federal Stimulus funds and yet-to-be-approved state revenues** in order to reduce the \$127 per-student proration, restore funding for higher-funded schools, establish an equity payments, early education programs, and school bus safety inspections.

This supplemental bill would use **\$184 million in federal stimulus money** that had been set aside for the 2010-11 budget, to reduce the \$127 per-student proration. By using the federal stimulus funds, the proration would be trimmed by \$117 dollars, so a \$10 per-pupil cut would still move forward on top of the \$165 per-student reduction already included in the K-12 budget.

House Bill 4860 would also use **\$59 million in state money from the proposed Michigan Future Fund**: \$25.7 million for the 20j schools and \$25.7 million for payments to districts receiving the lowest foundation allowance; \$7.6 million for great start readiness program grants and \$800,000 for school bus safety inspections.

The Michigan Future Fund was proposed by House Democrats when they passed measures in October that would freeze the personal exemption, reduce business tax credits and institute a physician tax. This fund does not yet exist in law and the Senate has so far rejected these revenues proposals.

House Bill 4860 is currently before the Senate Appropriations Committee. **It is highly unlikely that House Bill 4860 will pass the Senate before the November 21 proration deadline.**

David Hecker
President

Lois Lofton Doniver
Secretary-Treasurer

Louise Somalski
Legislative Coordinator

419 South Washington
Suite 301
Lansing, MI 48933
517-371-4300
FAX 517-371-1922

Public Hearings on Education Funding Being Scheduled

K-12 Committee Chairman, Terry Brown (D-Pigeon), is in the process of scheduling hearings around the state concerning education funding. Limited information is available at this time. All meetings are supposed to be held in the evening and in schools. Look for updates in the President’s Weekly E-mails.

December 7	Saginaw
December 9	Lansing
December 14	Kalamazoo

Education Reform – Fast and Furious

In July, the President and U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced a \$4 billion discretionary competitive grant program called “**Race to the Top.**” In order to qualify for this grant, States must advance reforms in four specific areas:

1. Adopting standards and assessments that prepare students to succeed in college and the workplace and to compete in the global economy;
2. Building data systems that measure student growth and success, and inform teachers and principals about how they can improve instruction;
3. Recruiting, developing, rewarding, and retaining effective teachers and principals, especially where they are needed most; and
4. Turning around our lowest-achieving schools.

To qualify, states must have no legal barriers to linking student growth and achievement data to teachers and principals for the purposes of evaluation. They also must have the department's approval for their plans for both phases of the Recovery Act's State Fiscal Stabilization Fund prior to being awarded a grant.

States should use multiple measures to evaluate teachers and principals, including a strong emphasis on the growth in achievement of their students. But successful applicants will need to have rigorous teacher and principal evaluation program and use the results of teacher evaluations to reform what happens in the schools.

Baked into the scoring rubric that includes 19 criteria and adds up to 500 points, are the following areas of reform that must be addressed:

- Articulate and implement education reform agenda
- Develop and adopt high quality standards and assessments
- Implement statewide K-20 data system to improve instruction
- Establish alternative routes to certification independent of higher education institutions
- Ensure performance evaluation and equitable distribution of staff
- Turn around lowest-performing schools
- Ensure successful conditions for high-performing charter and other innovative schools

In Race to the Top, the department will hold two rounds of competition for the grants. For the first round, it will **accept states' applications until the middle of January, 2010**. Peer reviewers will evaluate the **102-page applications** and the department will announce the winners of the first round of funding next spring. **Applications for the second round will be due June 1, 2010**, with the announcement of all the winners by Sept. 30, 2010.

This “**race**” for Fiscal Stabilization Funds has created a wave of legislation being introduced that will be rushed through the Legislature in December. Current proposals include the following:

SB 636 (Kuipers, R-Holland) **NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS** - Allows certificated teachers, parents of pupils, local units of government, community colleges, universities, governmental agencies, and others to apply to a sponsoring body for a performance contract to organize and operate a neighborhood public school (NPS). Permits the creation of a cyber school NPS that provided full-time instruction through online learning or otherwise through a computer or other technology. *Senate Floor*

SB 637 (Cassis, R-Nov) **NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS FUNDING** -Amends the Teachers' Tenure Act to indicate that a teacher in an NPS would not be considered a teacher for the purpose of continuing tenure, although a tenured teacher on a leave of absence from a school district to teach in an NPS would retain tenure during that leave of absence. *Senate Floor*

SB 638 (Birkholz, R-Saugatuck) **TEACHER TENURE EXEMPTION** - Amends the Teachers' Tenure Act to indicate that a teacher in an NPS would not be considered a teacher for the purpose of continuing tenure, although a tenured teacher on a leave of absence from a school district to teach in an NPS would retain tenure during that leave of absence. *Senate Floor*

SB 639 (Hardiman, R-Kentwood) **NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS** - Amends the Public Employment Relations Act to prohibit collective bargaining agreements between a public school employer and a bargaining representative of its employees from including decisions concerning the grant of a leave of absence to teach in an NPS. *Senate Floor*

SB 925 (Thomas, D-Detroit) **“SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE”** - Provides for establishment of “schools of excellence” and cyber schools and expands public school academy cap. *Senate Education Committee*

SB 926 (Thomas, D-Detroit) **“SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE”** - Requires transition payments to be made to a district for the first three years that a “School of Excellence” operates within that district, if membership at any SOE within the district exceeded 2% of the total pupils. *Senate Education Committee*

SB 981 (Kuipers, R-Holland) **FAILING SCHOOLS** - Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction, beginning after the 2010-2011 school year, to designate a public school as a turnaround school if the Department of Education (DOE) determined that the school had been unaccredited for four consecutive years or had failed to achieve the Federal pupil performance standard for four or more consecutive years, and that less than a designated percentage of all pupils had scored at least proficient on the most recent State assessment. The bill also requires the Superintendent to appoint a review team to evaluate a turnaround school, identify the reasons for its failures, and make recommendations for corrective measures, including the appointment of new leadership for the school or for the school district. Permits CEO to modify school district or PSA policies and renegotiate collective bargaining agreements. *Senate Education Committee*

SB 982 (Kuipers, R-Holland) **FAILING SCHOOLS** - Includes a chief educational officer as a joint employer of employees at a public school for the purposes of collective bargaining, if the Superintendent of Public Instruction designated the public school as a turnaround school. *Senate Education Committee*

SB 983 (Kuipers, R-Holland) **FAILING SCHOOLS** - Ensures that all per pupil funds attributable to the pupils enrolled at a turnaround school are available to that school. *Senate Education Committee*

HB 4787 (Melton D-Auburn Hills) **FAILING SCHOOLS** - Permits the State Superintendent to designate a public school as a failing public school and place it under the control of a State School Reform/Redesign Officer if the Department of Education (DOE) determined that the school had been unaccredited for four consecutive years or had failed to achieve the Federal pupil performance standard for four or more consecutive years and that less than a designated percentage of all pupils had scored at least proficient on the most recent State assessment. *Senate Education Committee*

HB 4788 (Johnson, D-Highland Park) **FAILING SCHOOLS** - Includes the State School Reform/Redesign Officer or the State School Reform/Redesign District as a joint employer of employees at a public school for the purposes of collective bargaining, if the Superintendent of Public Instruction designated the public school as a failing school. *Senate Education Committee*

HB 4789 (Melton D-Auburn Hills) **TURNAROUND SCHOOLS** - Provides that a pupil enrolled in a failing public school that was placed in the State School Reform/Redesign District and managed by a qualified person or entity under a performance contract would have to be counted in membership in the district or PSA that operated the school before it was designated as a failing public school. Also includes a turnaround school in the definition of "public school academy." *Senate Education Committee*

SB 965 (Kuipers, R-Holland) **TEACHER CERTIFICATION** - Establishes a process for a person to earn an interim teaching certificate under which he or she could teach in the public schools and, after four years of satisfactory performance, receive a permanent teaching certificate. *Senate Education Committee*

HB 5596 (Pavlov, R-St. Clair) **TEACHER CERTIFICATION** - Requires the superintendent of public instruction to establish a process for a person to earn an interim teaching certificate that qualifies the person to teach in the public schools and to earn a permanent teaching certificate. The process shall meet all applicable requirements for an alternative teaching certification process under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. *House Education Committee*

Michigan Promise Grant Program

On September 30, the House of Representatives passed **House Bill 5403 that would restore the Michigan Promise Grant appropriation** that was not included in the FY 2009-10 Higher Education Budget.

The Michigan Promise Grant Program provides students completing two years of postsecondary education at an eligible Michigan postsecondary institution with a total grant award of \$4,000. Under the program's current provisions, the following grant payments are scheduled to be made in FY 2009-10:

- Awards of \$1,000 per year (for two years of postsecondary study) to students from the high school classes of 2008 and 2009 who qualified on the Michigan Merit Exam.
- Awards of \$2,000 or \$4,000 to students from the high school class of 2007 (the first class eligible for the program) who have now completed two years of postsecondary education.

Current estimates indicate that an appropriation of \$120.0 million would be sufficient to make payments to all students eligible for both categories of awards. **House Bill 5403 is currently awaiting action before the Senate Appropriations Committee where action is uncertain.**

Community College Baccalaureate Degrees

House Bill 4837 (Walsh, R-Livonia) and House Bill 5533 (Sheltrown, D-West Branch) would allow community colleges to grant baccalaureate degrees in **nursing, cement technology, maritime technology, and culinary arts.**

This two-bill package would allow Michigan to join 17 other states in permitting the state's 28 community colleges the chance to offer a less expensive way to earn a baccalaureate degree. Community colleges would have to go through the process of applying for a "change of status" with the Higher Learning Commission to receive accreditation of their programs.

House Bills 4837 and 5533 have been approved by the House Education Committee and are currently awaiting action on the floor of the House.

Campaign Finance Reform

On October 29, a package of bills passed the House that would make several changes to the state's campaign finance law. Provisions included in the package are listed below.

Under House Bill 4245 (Miller, D-Mt. Clemens) public employee members of state and local unions could have union political action committee deductions withdrawn from their paycheck. The bill does require unions to pay the administrative costs of the payroll deduction.

House Bill 4284 (Miller, D-Mt. Clemens) would allow all PACs doing payroll deductions to get that approval once, rather than annually.

House Bill 4997 (Geiss, D-Taylor) was designed to streamline elections reporting by not requiring campaign committees to collect names of those who donate \$20 or less. Those contributions would simply be aggregated by the committee.

The bill would also require that candidate committees file all the same reports as other committees regulated under campaign finance laws. They would be prohibited from paying the candidate a salary.

Robocalls would have to include a disclaimer indicating who paid for the call and they could not be made after 8 p.m. or before 9 a.m. Violations would be a misdemeanor with fines of \$500 for a first violation, \$1,000 for a second and \$2,500 for each following.

The House passed similar legislation last term, but it died in the Senate. All three bills are currently awaiting action before the Senate Committee on Campaign and Election Oversight. At this time, no action has been scheduled or is anticipated.

bk:opeiu42aflcio

What's Up at the Capitol

Proration "Fix" Stalled in Senate	1
Education Reform – Fast and Furious	2
Michigan Promise Grant Program	4
Community College Baccalaureate Degrees	5
Campaign Finance Reform	5