
Middle Cities

EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

2009 ANNUAL REPORT



Creating Opportunities for the Urban Learner

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Creating Opportunities for the Urban Learner

OUR MISSION

Middle Cities Education Association is a consortium of urban school districts which was formed out of a shared commitment to improving educational opportunities for the urban learner. The unique mission and emphasis of Middle Cities is to serve as an advocate for member districts to insure quality educational programs for all students.

OUR STAFF

Raymond S. Telman
Executive Director

David J. Zuhlke, Ph.D.
Governmental & Legislative Liaison

Kacie Kefgen
Director of Communications and Membership Services

Shirlean B. Hauser
Manager of Financial Services

Patricia P. Alderman
Executive Assistant

Alpa Patel
Accounting Clerk





MEMBERS & SUPERINTENDENTS

Albion Public Schools	Fred Clarke
Battle Creek Public Schools	Charles Coleman
Bay City Public Schools	Carolyn Wierda
Beecher Community Schools	Paul Baker
Benton Harbor Area Schools	Carole Schmidt
Buena Vista School District	Sharron Norman Jenkins
Dearborn Public Schools	Brian Whiston
Ferndale Public Schools	Gary Meier
Flint Community Schools	Linda Thompson
Garden City Public Schools	Michelle Cline
Grand Rapids Public Schools	Bernard Taylor
Hazel Park Community Schools	Victor Mayo
Highland Park School District	Art Carter
Inkster Public Schools	Tom Maridada
Jackson Public Schools	Daniel Evans
Kalamazoo Public Schools	Michael Rice
Lansing School District	T.C. Wallace, Jr.
Monroe Public Schools	David Taylor
Mt. Clemens Community Schools	Charles Muncatchy
Mt. Pleasant Public Schools	Joe Pius
Muskegon Public Schools	Colin Armstrong
Muskegon Heights Public Schools	Dana Bryant
Niles Community Schools	Douglas Law
Pontiac School District	Linda Paramore
Port Huron Area School District	Thomas Shorkey
Romulus Community Schools	Carl Weiss
Saginaw City School District	Thomas Barris
Southfield Public Schools	Wanda Cook-Robinson
Waterford School District	Robert Neu
Wayne-Westland Community Schools	Gregory Baracy
Westwood Community School District	Ernando Minghine
Willow Run Community Schools	Doris Hope Jackson
Ypsilanti Public Schools	James Hawkins



PAST PRESIDENTS

2009	Daniel Evans, Jackson Public Schools
2008	Charles Coleman, Battle Creek Public Schools
2007	E. Sharon Banks, Lansing School District
2006	T. C. Wallace, Jr., Mt. Clemens Community Schools
2005	Gary Allen, Mt. Pleasant Public Schools
2004	Gregory Baracy, Wayne-Westland Community Schools
2003	William Kimball, Port Huron Area School District
2002	David Zuhlke, Ypsilanti Public Schools
2001	Howard Heitzeg, Waterford School District
2000	Joseph Schulze, Muskegon Public Schools
1999	Judyth Dobbert, Albion Public Schools
1998	David Taylor, Monroe Public Schools
1997	Blanche Fraser, Mount Clemens Community Schools
1996	Michael Bitar, Battle Creek Public Schools
1995	John Huffman, Niles Community Schools
1994	Richard Halik, Lansing School District
1993	Ira Rutherford III, Beecher Community Schools
1992	Larry Moeller, Port Huron Area School District
1991	James Agee, Muskegon Public Schools
1990	Frank Rapley, Kalamazoo Public Schools
1989	William Pearson, Jackson Public Schools
1988	Odell Nails, Pontiac School District
1987	Richard Klahn, Marquette Public Schools
1986	Foster Gibbs, Saginaw City School District
1985	James Hawkins, Ypsilanti Public Schools
1984	Joseph Pollack, Flint Community Schools
1983	Harry Howard, Ann Arbor Public Schools
1982	William Austin, Muskegon Public Schools
1981	George Owen, Midland Public Schools
1980	George Owen, Midland Public Schools
1979	John Sydnor, Muskegon Heights Public Schools
1978	Jack Mawdsley, Battle Creek Public Schools
1977	Phillip Runkel, Grand Rapids Public Schools
1976	Jack Taylor, Saginaw City School District
1975	I. Carl Candoli, Lansing School District
1974	I. Carl Candoli, Lansing School District
1973	I. Carl Candoli, Lansing School District



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section	Page
Members and Superintendents	ii
Past Presidents	iv
MCEA Values	2
President's Message	4
Executive Director's Message	6
Government Relations Report	8
Task Force Activities Report	32
Middle Cities Risk Management Services	36
Statistical Data	38



MCEA VALUES

Integrity Without Compromise

Having integrity means being honest and forthright with ourselves and in working with our members and each other. Moreover, we say what needs to be said not simply what people want to hear. Above all else, be true to our mission and values.

Do Right by All Our Customers

Doing right means acting with the best interests of the other party in mind. We treat each other, our business partners and our colleagues with the same care and respect with which we treat our members.

It's the People

We have great people who want to do well, who are committed to our mission, who are capable of doing great things, and who come to work fired up to achieve them. Great people flourish in an environment that liberates and amplifies their energy.

Excellence Through Continuous Improvement

We seek to adopt the best ideas and to be the best at whatever we do. We believe we can always get better. We strive continually to improve our processes, to help people do their jobs better and to produce high quality services and products.

Teams Work

Believing that Together Everyone Achieves More, we promote a culture of teamwork. Working in cooperation with others leads to better solutions and success for all. In a quality team, empowerment partners with ownership.

Listen, Understand, and Respond

We have a responsibility to create an environment that encourages people to speak openly, knowing they will be listened to when they do. Listening, however, is only a first step. It's also key to verify our understanding and to respond - if not through direct action, then through acknowledgement or feedback.

Members Define Quality

Part of adapting to changing member needs and desires is knowing what our members want. We actively solicit input from our membership.

Think Forward, Think Boldly

We are continually in search of forward thinking people, new ideas and new possibilities. We support courageous behaviors necessary to go forward in the face of risk. We look beyond conventional borders to find fresh perspectives.

Attention to Detail

We strive for simplicity, clarity and accuracy to help our audience understand the message. We look with a critical eye to eliminating the unnecessary. Clutter is catastrophic. It's often the lack of attention to little details that trip up the best ideas.

We Care and Give Back

We seek to contribute to our community in ways that reflect broadly held values, have meaningful impact, draw on our unique strengths as a service organization, and, whenever possible, reinforce our goals.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Daniel Evans, Superintendent of Jackson Public Schools

The Middle Cities Education Association (MCEA) was organized nearly four decades ago, uniting urban school districts around the state. At that time, it was clear that urban areas and their school districts faced distinct challenges and possessed unique resources. The unity forged by MCEA has yielded many possibilities for advocacy, professional development and networking. Few other voices can be heard speaking up on behalf of the state's urban learners. Our task forces provide countless opportunities for education leaders to connect and share their experience, talents, questions and concerns with one another and with state officials.

In a time of seemingly ever shrinking budgets and ever increasing responsibilities, the unity among the Middle Cities school districts has never been so vital. Our common voice can shape policy and funding on the state level. Our common purpose can lead to collaboration that leads to effective problem-solving on the local level. Together, we can work to provide urban learners with the opportunities they need to succeed in the 21st Century.

As you use this annual report, please note other ways that Middle Cities may be able to support your district. Robust membership feedback is important to ensure MCEA is as effective as possible and can help all of us develop the best tools for success, empowering urban learners throughout the state.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Raymond S. Telman

I am proud to share this year's Middle Cities Education Association annual report. Inside you will find information highlighting MCEA's services as well as a variety of helpful data about our member school districts. In addition, this report includes a review of our legislative and governmental activities and reports of our task forces' activities.

Middle Cities has a unique mission among education associations to advocate on behalf of Michigan's urban school districts and their students. From the child in the classroom to the superintendent at the central office, this organization strives to serve each component of the education community.

Throughout the school year, member districts come together at task force meetings to gather and share helpful information about state initiatives, discuss common interests and guide MCEA's staff on legislative and governmental matters.

It is an honor to work with our member school districts and staff. They work tirelessly on behalf of their students, and their leadership is a vital component of successful public education in our state. As educators encounter continued challenges and opportunities presented by our economic situation, MCEA will continue to advocate on behalf of Michigan's urban school districts as we strive to make our mission a reality.



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

David J. Zuhlke, Governmental & Legislative Liaison

SCHOOL FUNDING

The 2008-09 State School Aid Act, SB1107, was agreed upon in Conference Committee, passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor on August 6, 2008. HB1107 continued the “2x formula” established in 2007-08 for per-pupil funding to districts. The 2008-09 State Aid Act set the new Basic Foundation Allowance at \$8,489 per pupil. This meant that districts at the minimum foundation allowance would receive an increase of \$112 per pupil. Districts between the minimum and \$8,433 per pupil (2007-08 Basic Foundation Allowance) would receive an increase of between \$56 and \$112 per pupil, and districts above \$8,433 per pupil would receive a \$56 per pupil increase. Other highlights in the 2008-09 State School Aid Act include:

Small High School Initiative (Section 11n) – The Legislature appropriated \$15 million for start up and implementation grants of up to \$3 million over four years for each newly configured school with at least an average 75 pupils per grade and not more than 110 pupils per grade. Districts with a graduation rate less than 70% (or PSAs with a majority of students residing in such a district) would be eligible. A school district would have to achieve a graduation rate of at least 80% by its 3rd graduating class, and have 80% of its graduates enrolled in post secondary studies within six months of graduating. Grantees not meeting outcome standards would have to return 50% of their total grant award.

MBT Impact on Out of Formula Districts (Section 22e) – The Legislature appropriated \$1.3 million for school districts that do not receive State Foundation Allowance payments, but lose local revenue from school operating taxes due to the property tax exemptions contained in the new Michigan Business Tax.

Math Remediation Grants (Section 99a) – The Legislature appropriated \$725,000 for pilot programs in mathematics and science centers, and the

Michigan Virtual University to develop and implement programs for after school and summer mathematics for eighth grade students.

Kindergarten Membership (Section 6 (4) (r)) - The Legislature added language that beginning in 2009-10, any child in a half day developmental or pre-kindergarten program would only qualify for half the foundation allowance. Further, in 2010-11 school districts would be required to provide a kindergarten program to pupils for at least 60% of the hours required for grades one through 12 and by 2011-12, 70% of the required hours for grades one through 12 to be eligible to receive a full foundation allowance for kindergarten pupils.

MPSERS Retirement Rate (Section 147) – The Legislature set the estimated percentage of payroll districts must allocate for public school employee retirement at 16.54%.

Due to a slumping economy in Michigan, the Michigan State Legislature enacted HB4721, a supplemental appropriation to the 2008-09 School Aid Act. This supplemental appropriation bill reduced State funding by \$598.8 million to reflect lower School Aid Fund revenue estimates, and changes to the pupil membership estimates. This funding reduction represented an approximate \$370 per pupil reduction in funding to school districts. However, HB4721 also appropriated approximately \$634 million in Federal ARRA State Fiscal Stabilization Funds to cover this shortfall. Also, HB4721 deleted the kindergarten membership language enacted in SB1107.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Two separate Legislative Sessions were convened during the 2008-09 school year. Education—related bills introduced during the 94th and 95th Legislative Sessions follow:

94th Legislative Session

SENATE BILLS

SB11 Compulsory Education (Brater, D-Ann Arbor) – A bill to change the age for compulsory education to age 18. *[Referred to Senate Education Committee.]*

SB54 Sinking Fund (Whitmer, D-East Lansing) – A bill to expand the uses of sinking fund revenues to technology and bus purchases. *[In hearings in Senate Education Committee.]*

SB70 Reading Training (Cassis, R-Novi) – A bill to change from July 1, 2007 to July 1, 2008 the beginning date of a requirement for a certified teacher to have received instruction on reading disabilities within the first six (6) years of teaching. *[PA32 of 2007 signed by Governor on July 1, 2007; effective July 2, 2007.]*

SB107 Anti-Bullying (Anderson, D-Westland) – Requires local districts to have an anti-bullying policy and procedures in place similar to HB4162. *[Referred to Senate Education Committee.]*

SB162 **Mandatory Kindergarten** (Clark-Coleman, D-Detroit) – A bill to mandate full day kindergarten and change the mandatory attendance age from 6 to 5. *[Referred to Senate Education Committee.]*

SB282 **Mandatory Physical Education** (B. Thomas, D-Detroit) – A bill to mandate 30 minutes of physical education at least two days per week in grades K-5. *[Reported out of Senate Health Policy Committee.]*

SB367 **Sinking Fund** (Kuipers, R-Holland) – A bill to permit school districts to refer to a sinking fund by using another appropriate descriptive term, such an “infrastructure investment” fund when formulating ballot language to approve a sinking fund levy. *[In hearings in Senate Education Committee.]*

SB386 **Criminal Sexual Conduct** (Patterson, R-Canton) – This bill amends the Michigan Penal Code to include sexual conduct offenses committed by school district substitute teachers, contracted service providers, any employees, volunteers, or any other Government employees providing services to a school, district, or ISD. *[PA163 of 2007 signed by Governor on December 20, 2007; effective July 1,*

SB403 **Transfer Students** (Kuipers, R-Holland) – A bill to permit transfer students from out-of-state or a non-public school to request personal modifications to the high school graduation requirements. *[PA141 of 2007 signed by Governor November 13, 2007; Effective November 14, 2007]*

SB415-416 **Human Papillomavirus (HPV)** (Cherry, D-Burton) – A bill to require the Department of Community Health to provide information about HPV and the vaccination; and encourage schools to make information available to students and parents. *[PA120 of 2008 signed by the Governor on 5/8/08 with immediate effect.]*

SB418-421 **Insurance Pooling** (Jansen, R-Gaines Twp.) – A series of tie-barred bills that would allow municipalities and school districts to form pools to provide health, dental and vision benefits to their employees; allows for claims data to be provided and for solicitation of bids before awarding contract. *[PA106 of 2007 signed by Governor October 1, 2007; effective October 1, 2007]*

SB449 **Cell Phones** (Kahn, R-Saginaw Twp.) – A bill to prohibit school bus drivers from using cell phones while driving. *[Referred to Senate Education Committee.]*

SB474-475 **Kindergarten Start Date** (Cassis, R-Nov) – A bill to change the kindergarten start date from December 1 to September 1. *[Referred to Senate Education Committee.]*

SB546-547 School Employees Retirement (Kuipers, R-Holland) – Bills to amend the public school employee retirement act by increasing the MIP rate for new employees by an additional 2%; provide for graded health provisions for retirees with less than 30 years service; to change provisions for purchasing service credit; and to limit health care coverage for early retirees. [[PA110 & 111 of 2007](#) signed by Governor October 1, 2007; effective October 1, 2007]

SB548 Charter Schools (Kuipers, R-Holland) – A bill to allow a 9-12 charter high school focusing on careers in health and life sciences to be located on a campus of a state university. [*Referred to Senate Education Committee.*]

SB549 Common Calendar (Jelinek, R-Three Oaks) – A bill that requires that all districts within an ISD adopt a common calendar listing spring and winter recesses. [[PA101 of 2007](#) signed by Governor October 1, 2007; effective October 1, 2007]

SB569 Disclosure of Compensation (Cassis, R-Novi) – A bill to require LEA's to provide information on total compensation for highest paid school employees. [*Referred to Senate Education Committee.*][SB571](#)

Special Education Students' Rights (Kuipers, R-Holland) – This bill ensures that special education students are not denied their IDEA rights under State and Federal laws, if expelled or suspended from school. [[PA138 of 2007](#) signed by the Governor on November 12, 2007; effective November 12, 2007.]

SB573 Total Compensation Limit (Garcia, R-Brighton) - A bill to cap a school district's total compensation at 85% of a district's budget. [*Referred to Senate Appropriations Committee.*]

SB673 Single Gender School Requirements (Hardiman, R-Kentwood) – A bill to amend Section 1146 of PA451 of 1976 for requirements establishing single gender schools. [*Referred to Senate Education Committee.*]

SB694 African American History (Thomas, D-Detroit) – A bill that requires elementary schools who teach African American History to ensure that the content of the instruction is focused on one or more of the following Kingdoms: Ghana, Mali, Songhay, Benin, Bornu, Nubia, Axum, Meroe, Medieval Ethiopia, or the Swahili Coast. [*Referred to the Senate Education Committee.*]

SB699 Sex Offenders (Garcia, R-Howell) – A bill to amend the Sex Offender Registration Act to further define a student safety zone as an area that lies 1000 feet or less radiating in a straight line from any edge of school property. [*Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.*]

SB701 School Board Volunteers (Jelinek, R-Three Oaks) – This bill would permit School Board members to volunteer their services as coach or extracurricular activity supervisor without

compensation in the event there are no other qualified applicants available. *[Referred to Senate Education Committee.]*

SB719 School Classroom Assignments (Garcia, R-Howell) – A bill to require schools to comply with classroom assignment requests from parents or legal guardians of multiple birth siblings. *[Referred to Senate Education Committee.]*

SB730 Students with Disabilities (Gleason, D-Flushing) – This bill replaces references to a “handicapped person” found in the Revised School Code with the phrase “student with a disability”. *[PA 0001 of 2008 signed by the Governor on January 11, 2008; Effective January 11, 2008.]*

SB747 Excused Absences (Garcia, R-Howell) – A bill to require schools to consider a school absence excused when a student misses school because a parent or legal guardian is a Service Member and is being deployed or returning from active duty. *[PA141 of 2008 signed by the Governor on May 28, 2008; immediate effect.]*

SB805-806 Michigan Merit Examination (Switalski, D-Roseville) – A bill to eliminate Social Studies Assessment as a component of the Michigan Merit Examination; adds retesting option for students who do not qualify for Michigan “Promise” Grants. *[Referred to Senate Education Committee.]*

SB807-808 ACT Test (Jelinek, R-Three Oaks) – A bill to make the ACT writing component of the Michigan Merit Examination, if required, optional for students. The bill also requires any student who elects to take the ACT writing component to be responsible for paying the cost of that component. *[Referred to Senate Education Committee.]*

SB809 Social Studies Test (Jelinek, R-Three Oaks) – A bill to eliminate Social Studies as a part of MEAP Testing. *[Referred to Senate Education Committee.]*

SB810-811 Social Studies Test (Switalski, D-Roseville) – A bill to eliminate Social Studies as a component of the Michigan Merit Examination. *[Referred to Senate Education Committee.]*

SB812 End of Course Examinations (Jelinek, R-Three Oaks) – A bill to eliminate the requirement for the Department of Education to develop End of Course Examinations to assess whether a student has met content expectations or guidelines for high school graduation requirements. *[Referred to Senate Education Committee.]*

SB813-814 Michigan Merit Exam Retake Fee (Switalski, D-Roseville) – A bill to require students to pay a fee for any repeat of Michigan Merit Examination Testing. *[Referred to Senate Education Committee.]*

SB834 Financial Literacy (Switalski, D-Roseville) – A bill to allow a course in Financial Literacy to qualify as a Mathematics Course for purposes of meeting a High School Graduation Requirement in Mathematics *[Passed the Senate and the House.]*

SB836 Non-Public Home School Students (VanWoerkam, R-Norton Shores) – This bill permits a nonpublic or home-schooled student to be enrolled in a public school course in their local public school district, or in a contiguous public school district (if the local school district cannot or will not provide the course) with or without the consent of the local public school district. *[PA219 of 2008; signed by Governor on July 15, 2008; immediate effect.]*

SB842 (S-1) Reading Course (Kuipers, R-Holland) – A bill to require all teachers and administrators to take a three-credit course on reading disabilities and differentiated instruction as a continuing education requirement. *[Passed the Senate.]* Tie-Barred to SB1275 SB861

Michigan Promise Zone Grants (VanWoerkam, R-Norton Shores) – A bill to permit establishment of voluntary “Promise Zones” to assist qualifying students with college tuition costs. *[Referred to Senate Education Committee.]*

SB953 Cosmetology (Whitmer, D-East Lansing) – This bill allows senior level cosmetology students to perform shampoo services on the public upon completion of 350 hours of instruction. *[Referred to Senate Economic Development and Regulatory Reform Committee.]*

SB1006 Public School Academy Relocation (Olshove, D-Warren) – This bill would require approval of a new contract to operate when relocating an academy to another site. *[Referred to Senate Education Committee.]*

SB1010 Early Childhood Education ISD Millage (Jacobs, D-Huntington Woods) – This bill would allow an Intermediate School District to establish and fund (not more than 1 mill) an Early Childhood Program through an Intermediate School District wide election. *[Referred to Senate Finance Committee.]*

SB1013 Adequate Yearly Progress (Kuipers, R-Holland) – A bill to amend section 1280 of the School Aid Act to include sanctions for schools that have not achieved AYP under NCLB for 5 or more consecutive years. *[Referred to Senate Education Committee.]*

SB1021 School Building Site Plan (Olshove, D-Warren) – A bill to require school site plans to be approved by the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the local unit of government. *[Referred to Senate Education Committee.]*

SB1039 Early Intervention Program (Cassis, R-Nov) – A bill to permit ISDs to develop and make available an early intervention model program for kindergarten to third grade to instruct

teachers on how to monitor individual student learning and provide instructional support to avoid inappropriate referrals to special education. *[Passed by Senate; referred to House Education Committee.]*

SB1096 Department of Education Budget (Jelinek, R-Three Oaks) – A bill to appropriate school aid fund revenues for FY09 Department of Education Budget. *[PA212 of 2008 signed by Governor on July 15, 2008; immediate effect.]*

SB1107 State School Aid Act (Jelinek, R-Three Oaks) – A bill to appropriate School Aid Fund revenues to K-12 school districts and PSAs for 2008-09. *[PA268 of 2008 signed by Governor on August 6, 2008; immediate effect.]*

SB1252 Substitute Bus Drivers (Gleason, D-Flushing) – A bill to amend the revised school code to require criminal record checks of all substitute bus drivers. *[Committee recommended to the Senate.]*

SB1275 English Language Arts Requirements (Kuipers, R-Holland) – A bill to require school districts who fail to meet ELA requirements under NCLB to provide early intervention programs for pupils in grades K-3, provide all pupils 60-90 minutes of reading instruction daily, and provide reading assessments to pupils in grades K-3 three times per year. *[In hearings in Senate Education Committee.]* Tie-Barred to SB842 (S-1); referred to Senate Appropriations Committee.

SB1332 Driver Training (Kahn, R-Saginaw Twp.) – A bill to establish procedures and requirements to permit parents and guardians to provide driver training. *[Referred to Senate Education Committee.]*

SB1333 Firefighter Training Program (Kahn, R-Saginaw Twp.) – A bill to require MDE to develop a model firefighter training program for high school pupils. *[Referred to Senate Education Committee.]*

SB1361 Academic Freedom (Hardiman, R-Kentwood) – A bill to permit the teaching of controversial topics in science education. *[Referred to Senate Education Committee.]*

SB1417 Internet Safety (Pappageorge, R-Troy) – A bill to require grade level appropriate internet safety instruction for pupils beginning in the 2009-10 school year. *[Referred to Senate Education Committee.]*

SB1479 SAF Contribution (Cassis, R-Novi) – A bill to allow an individual to designate on his/her state income tax refund a contribution to the State School Aid Fund of \$5 or more. *[Senate Finance Committee Recommended to Senate.]*

SB 1516 **Education Investments** (Birkholz, R-Saugatuck Twp.) – A bill to permit local and intermediate school districts to invest in certain, qualified insured certificates of deposit. *[Referred to Senate Education Committee.]*

HOUSE BILLS

HB4042 **Age 18 Compulsory Attendance** (Lemmons, Jr., D-Detroit) – A bill to raise the compulsory attendance law from 16 to age 18 (or upon graduation). *[Reported out of House Education Committee.]*

HB4073 **Mandatory Kindergarten** (V. Smith, D-Detroit) – A bill to mandate kindergarten and change the age of compulsory attendance from age 6 to 5. *[In hearings in House Education Committee.]*

HB4091 **Anti-Bullying** (Vagnozzi, D-Farmington Hills) – A bill to require the Michigan Department of Education to develop and disseminate a model policy that prohibits harassment or bullying at school and encourages school districts to adopt the model policy and work with local law enforcement agencies for implementation. *[Passed in House; Referred to Senate Education Committee.]*

HB4162 **Anti-Bullying** (Byrnes, D-Chelsea) – A bill to detail necessary elements in an anti-bullying policy to include definitions of protected classes including “sexual orientation”. *[Passed in House; Referred to Senate Education Committee.]*

HB4220 **School Board Volunteers** (Espinoza, D-Crosswell) – A bill to allow school board members to volunteer their services, e.g., as coaches, etc. *[PA22 of 2008 signed by Governor March 12, 2008; effective March 12, 2008.]*

HB4359 **School Aid Act 2007-08** (Gillard, D-Alpena) – A bill to provide for funding of K-12 education for the FY08 beginning October 1, 2007. *[PA137 of 2007 signed by Governor November 8, 2007; effective November 8, 2007.]*

HB4506-4507 **School Elections** (Ward, R-Brighton) – A bill to move the election of school board members to November. *[Passed in the House; Referred to Senate Education Committee; used as vehicle bill for Presidential Primary.]*

HB4533 **Privatization as a Subject of Bargaining** (Meisner, D-Ferndale) – A bill to remove the privatization of support services as a prohibited subject of the collective bargaining process. *[Passed in the House; Referred to Senate Education Committee.]*

HB4591 Certification Fees (Hopgood, D-Taylor) – A bill to increase the certification fees for teachers, school psychologists, school counselors, and administrators. This bill would also set a fee schedule for teacher preparation programs, and require MDE to establish and implement a new teacher certification database no later than July 1, 2010. [*PA144 of 2007 signed by Governor November 19, 2007; effective November 19, 2007*]

HB4592 Consolidation of Services (Melton, D-Auburn Hills) – A bill to provide for a study of cost savings due to the consolidation of services between intermediate and local school districts. [*PA63 of 2007, signed by the Governor September 18, 2007; effective September 19, 2007*]

HB4593 Teacher Retirement (Melton, D-Auburn Hills) – A bill to change from 6 years to 10 years the time in which a retired teacher or administrator may fill an emergency position without jeopardizing MPSERS pension and benefits. [*Passed the House; Referred to Senate Education Committee.*]

HB4796 School Employee Salary Cap (Ward, R-Brighton) – A bill to cap school employee's total compensation package at no more than the salary of the Governor (currently \$177,000). [*Passed in the House; Tie-barred to HB4500; Referred to Senate Education Committee.*]

HB4797-4798 Teacher Retirement (Melton, D-Auburn Hills) – A bill to change the MPSERS provisions to a graded health benefit. [*Referred to House Education Committee.*]

HB4799 Rehire of Retirees (Wenke, R-Richland) – A bill to place a freeze on employees receiving pension benefits when returning to work for a retirement system entity either directly or on a contracted basis through a third party. [*Passed in the House; Tie-barred to HB4500; Passed the Senate; Referred back to Senate Education Committee.*]

HB4801 Income Tax Exemption on Retiree Pensions (Ward, R-Brighton) – A bill to cap the income tax exemption on school employees' pensions. [*Re-referred to House Oversight and Investigations.*]

HB4924 School Boundaries (Melton, D-Auburn Hills) – A bill to prohibit school districts from establishing an educational program in another district without their approval. [*Passed in the House; Referred to Senate Education Committee.*]

HB4976 Purchasing Service Credit (Ball, R-Laingsburg) – A bill to amend MPSERS to require 10 years of service before being allowed to purchase additional years of service credit. [*Referred to House Committee on Oversight and Investigations.*]

HB5083 **Funding Accountability and Transparency (FAT) Act** (Meltzer, R-Clinton Twp.) – A bill to require school districts to post certain previous year’s expenditures, including travel, executive salaries, and service contracts as an example. *[Referred to House Education Committee; rereferred to House Appropriations Committee.]*

HB5084 **Funding Accountability and Transparency (FAT) Act** (Amos, R-Waterford) – A bill to require intermediate school districts to post certain previous year’s expenditures, including non-competitive bid contracts, lobbying, travel, and automobile expenses, as an example. *[Referred to House Education Committee; rereferred to House Appropriations Committee.]*

HB5087 **Single Gender Schools** (Hildenbrand, R-Lowell) – This bill would revise the rules and requirements for establishment of single gender schools. *[Referred to House Education Committee.]*

HB5090 **Freedom of Information Act** (Stakoe, R-Highland) – This bill would amend the Freedom of Information Act to exempt from disclosure a public employee’s home address and phone number. *[Referred to House Government Operations Committee.]*

HB5093 **Service Credit Purchase** (Jackson, D-Detroit) – This bill would amend the Public School Employees Retirement Act to require any member who becomes a member after December 31, 2007 and desires to purchase service credit after a break in public school service, to have at least 10 years of reporting unit service credit. *[Referred to House Education Committee.]*

HB5094 **Service Credit Purchase** (Jackson, D-Detroit) – This bill would amend the Public School Employees Retirement Act to require any members who becomes a member on or after December 31, 2007 and desires to purchase out of system public education credit, to follow the purchase of service credit by 10 years of reporting unit service credit before being credited.

HB5156 **Forensic Auditing** (Lemmons, D-Detroit) – Provides for a Forensic Audit of a Reform Board’s operations and records to determine whether there has been any violation of law or generally accepted governmental accounting practices. *[Referred to House Education Committee.]*

HB5159 **Transportation** (Sheen, R-Plainwell) – A bill to amend the Pupil Transportation Act allowing school buses to proceed without stopping at railroad tracks that are partially removed at or adjacent to the railroad crossing, or otherwise unusable for rail transportation. *[Referred to House Transportation Committee.]*

HB5162 **Concealed Weapons in Schools** (Agema, R-Grandville) – A bill to permit a teacher, administrator, or other school employee to carry a concealed pistol on school property with proper licensure and authorization of Chief Executive Officer. *[Referred to House Judiciary Committee.]*

HB5167-68 **School Retiree Health Care** (Wenke, R-Richland) – A bill to amend the Public School Employees Retirement Act to outline a process to transition to a defined contribution plan for public school employees hired after July 1, 2008. *[Referred to House Education Committee.]*

HB5171 **Human Papillomavirus (HPV)** (Meadows, D-East Lansing) – A bill to amend the Public Health Code to require the Department of Community Health to provide information about HPV to schools, and encourage schools to make this information available to students and parents. *[Referred to House Health Policy Committee; reported out to full House.]*

HB5214 **School Censorship** (Coulouris, D-Saginaw) – A bill to prevent a school board, school administrator, or school employee from censoring a student publication unless it is obscene, defamatory or is an invasion of privacy, or presents factually a clear and present danger of a violation of law or school regulation. *[Referred to House Education Committee.]*

HB5244 **Distance for Athletic Conference** (Johnson, D-Detroit) – This bill would remove any distance restrictions an athletic conference, league, or association may have that limits the distance that an interscholastic athletic team may travel to participate in a game, meet, match, contest or competition. *[Referred to House Education Committee.]*

HB5322 **Human Papillomavirus (HPV)** (Clack, D-Flint) – A bill to require schools to provide information regarding HPV to students entering grade 6. [\[PA121 of 2008\]](#) signed by Governor on May 8, 2008; immediate effect.]

HB5323 **Special Education Rules** (Miller, D-Mt. Clemens) – A bill to restore authority to the State Board of Education (versus the Department of Education) for adopting and distributing Braille Reading and Writing Standards. *[Passed the House; Referred to Senate Education Committee.]*

HB5375 **Promise Zone Grants** (Melton, D-Auburn Hills) – A bill to permit establishment of voluntary “Promise Zones” to assist qualifying students with college tuition costs. *[Passed in the House; referred to Senate Education Committee.]*

HB5380-5381 **Driver License Attendance Requirements** (Johnson, D-Detroit) – A bill to suspend the driver license (6 months) of persons under 18 years of age who have received a juvenile disposition for willful and repeated absence from school or other learning programs. Tie-barred to HB5381. *[Referred to House Transportation Committee.]*

HB5382 **Truancy Policy** (Clack, D-Flint) – A bill to require each local school district(s), intermediate school district(s), and county prosecutor(s) to meet, develop and adopt a truancy policy for the local district and/or ISD for approval by the State Board of Education. *[Referred to House Education Committee.]*

HB5411 **Permanent Expulsion** (Steil, R-Cascade Twp.) – This bill would amend the Revised School Code to require school districts, ISDs and public academies to include in their code of student conduct 1) A description of due process rights used in permanent expulsion proceedings and 2) A description of procedures for permanent expulsion and reinstatement. *[Passed in the House; referred to Senate Education Committee.]* Tie barred to HB5832.

HB5454 **Health Insurance Claims Data** (Sak, D-Grand Rapids) – This bill would amend the Public Employees Health Benefit Act to require complete and accurate claims utilization and cost information for the most recent rate renewal period for pooled insurance bidding. *[Referred to House Education Committee.]*

HB5506 **Owned or Leased Vehicles** (Palmer, R-Romeo) This bill would disallow the use of government or school district owned or leased vehicles for personal use. *[Referred to House Intergovernmental, Urban, and Regional Affairs Committee.]*

HB5514 **School Elections** (Young, D-Detroit) This bill would amend Michigan election law to change school district election procedures to comply with procedures used in state or county office elections. *[Referred to House Ethics and Elections Committee.]*

HB5580 **Public School Academy Relocation** (Bieda, D-Warren) This bill would require approval of a new contract to operate when relocating a Public School Academy to another site. *[Referred to House Education Committee.]*

HB5590 **Public Holidays** (R. Jones, R-Grand Ledge) This bill would permit an administrator or teacher to conduct a celebratory event for a public holiday during a time when school is in session. *[Referred to House Education Committee.]*

HB5594 **Compulsory Education** (Sak, D-Grand Rapids) This bill would change the age for compulsory public education from age 16 to age 18. *[Referred to House Education Committee.]*

HB5625 **School Construction** (Bieda, D-Warren) - A bill to require approval by a school district's local unit of government for school building construction and remodeling. *[Referred to Intergovernmental, Urban, and Regional Affairs.]*

HB5635 **Use of Tobacco** (Byrum, D-Onondaga) – A bill to prohibit the use of any tobacco products in or on school property during any and all times of the day or night. *[Referred to House Education Committee.]*

HB5639 **Bidding Preference** (Spade, D-Tipton) – A bill to permit intermediate and local school boards to give a preference of up to 10% of the amount of a contract in a competitive bid for Michigan-based businesses. *[Passed in House; Referred to Senate Appropriations Committee.]*

HB5724-25 **Color Blindness** (Moore, R-Farwell) – Bills to require screening for color blindness as a part of school vision testing. *[Referred to House Health Policy Committee.]*

HB5792 **Pre-register to Vote** (Bieda, D-Warren) – A bill to allow sixteen year olds to pre-register to vote under certain conditions. *[Passed by the House; Referred to Senate Campaign and Election Oversight Committee.]*

HB5832 **Conflict of Interest** (Dean, D-Grand Rapids) – A bill to require school board members to abstain from voting on a student’s permanent expulsion when there is a conflict of interest. *[Passed in the House; Referred to Senate Education Committee.]*

HB5868 **School Counselors** (Donigan, D-Royal Oak) – A bill to require school districts to employ and assign qualified school counselors at a ratio of at least 1 counselor for every 250 students. *[Referred to house Education Committee.]*

HB5911 **Reading Evaluation** (Clack, D-Flint) – A bill to require school districts and public school academies to evaluate all first graders within 30 days of the start of school to determine reading disorders or disabilities. *[Referred to House Education Committee.]*

HB5943 **General Diploma Alternative** (Sheltrown, D-West Branch) – A bill to modify high school graduation requirements to provide for a general diploma curriculum as an alternative for high school graduation. *[Referred to House Education Committee.]*

HB5963 **Military Students** (Polidori, D-Dearborn) – A bill to provide certain rights and benefits to military children when enrolling and transferring to schools in other states. [*\[PA 160 of 2008 signed by the Governor on June 11, 2008; Effective immediately.\]*](#)

HB6027 **Academic Freedom Law** (Moolenaar, R-Midland) – A bill to permit teachers to explore strengths and weaknesses of various scientific topics that may be controversial without administrative interference. *[Referred to House Education Committee.]*

HB6046 **US Olympic Students** (Lindberg, D-Marquette) – A bill to permit the educating district to claim membership for nonresident US Olympic students. *[Referred to House Education Committee.]*

HB6064 **21st Century Schools Bonds** (Gillard, D-Alpena) – A bill to exempt 21st Century Schools Bonds under MCL 388.16 sec. 11m from a required vote of district electors and computation of the total outstanding bonded indebtedness of a school district. *[Referred to House Appropriations Committee.]*

HB6085-86 **Mandate Rollback Contract** (Palmer, R-Romeo) – Bills to allow districts to waive certain statutory and administrative requirements for their schools by entering into a specific, measurable performance-based contract. *[Referred to House Education Committee.]*

HB6123 **Firefighter Training Program** (R. Jones, R-Grand Ledge) – A bill to require MDE to make available to high schools one or more model programs for entry level firefighter training. *[Referred to House Education Committee.]*

HB6177 **Public School Academy Board Member Elections** (Valentine, D-Muskegon) – A bill to amend to process by which public school academy board members are nominated and elected. *[Referred to House Education Committee.]*

HB6234 **Administrator Certification** (Spade, D-Tipton) – A bill to require administrator certification for all current and future school administrators responsible for administering instructional programs, including a chief business official. *[Referred to House Education Committee.]*

HB6247 **Personal Curriculum** (Hopgood, D-Taylor) – A bill to end the timeline, requirements, and persons eligible to initiate and implement a pupil's personal curriculum plan. *[Referred to House Education Committee.]*

HB6270 **Privatization** (Bennett, D-Muskegon) – A bill to require a cost-benefit analysis for local and intermediate school districts before privatizing school employees or services. *[Referred to House Education Committee.]*

**Michigan Public Acts
2008**

The following are education related public acts enacted by the Michigan Legislature during the 2008 calendar year.

PA1 (SB730) – Revises references to “handicapped person” in School Code to “student with disability”; allows for transfer of public school academy assets and pupils to another public school; revises effective date for school district consolidations. (Effective 1/11/08)

PA22 (HB4220) – Allows School Board members to volunteer as coaches under certain circumstances. (Effective 3/12/08)

PA112 (HB5531) – 2007-08 State Aid Appropriation Supplemental. (Effective 1/29/08)

PA120 (SB415) – Requires Human Papilloma virus (HPV) information distribution to parents of children in 6th, 9th, and 12th grades. (Effective 5/13/08)

PA121 (HB5322) – Requires schools to provide information concerning Human Papilloma virus (HPV) and HPV immunization. (Effective 5/9/08)

PA141 (SB747) – Requires student’s absence due to parent’s being deployed or return from active duty be treated as an excused absence. (Effective 5/2/08)

PA219 (SB836) – Revises requirements for qualifying for state aid for shared time instruction between public schools and private schools. (Effective 7/16/08)

PA268 (SB1107) – 2008-09 State School Aid Act. (Effective 8/6/08)

PA307 (HB6297) – Allows treasurer of a local or intermediate school district, if authorized by the Board, to invest funds in certificates of deposit in any bank or savings association whose deposits are insured by FDIC. (Effective 12/18/08)

PA312 (HB4902) – Encourages the teaching of African American history and culture in middle school or high school World History courses. (Effective 12/18/08)

PA315 (HB6368) – Farm to School Procurement Act; Requires the Michigan Department of Education and the Michigan Department of Agriculture to collaborate to encourage school food service authorities to purchase local farm products. (Effective 12/18/08)

PA316 (SB834) – Allows a course in financial literacy to qualify as a mathematics course for purposes of meeting high school graduation requirements. (Effective 12/18/08)

PA343 (HB6365) – Allows a school district or public school academy to purchase food without obtaining competitive bids, if the transaction costs less than \$100,000.00. (Effective 12/23/08)

PA344 (HB6366) – Allows an intermediate school district to purchase food without obtaining competitive bids, if the transaction costs less than \$100,000.00. (Effective 12/23/08)

PA349 (HB6412) – Eliminates retakes of the Michigan Merit Exam, except for the ACT portion of the assessment; requires all students not eligible for free lunch to pay for Merit Exam retakes; restricts any Merit Exam writing exams to only the ACT writing test; requires all three Work Keys components to be administered; requires the Department of Education to identify specific grade level content expectations to be taught before and after the middle of 11th grade to identify what content will be covered within the Merit Exam. (Effective 12/23/08)

PA350 (HB6413) – Amends the definition of “State Assessment Test” in the Michigan Promise Grant Act to account for the elimination of full Merit Exam retakes. (Effective 12/23/08)

PA354 (HB6638) – Amends Michigan’s Public School Employees Retirement Act to bring it into compliance with Internal Revenue Service’s guidelines and the Internal Revenue Code. (Effective 12/23/08)

PA517 (SB482) – Amends the Michigan Promise Grant Act to require students to pass the Social Studies State Assessment Test; requires students to complete at least three credits of Social Studies to qualify to receive Michigan Promise Grant payments, beginning with students graduating in 2010-11. (Effective 1/12/09)

PA523 (SB921) – Requires licensure of Occupational Therapists. (Effective 1/12/09)

PA524 (SB493) – Requires Department of Community Health licensure of Speech – Language Pathologists. (Effective 1/12/09)

PA540 (HB5639) – Allows a local school district, public school academy, or intermediate school district to adopt and implement a policy that gives preference to Michigan-based businesses in awarding competitively bid contracts. (Effective 1/12/09)

PA549 (SB861) – Allows the establishment of up to ten Promise Zones statewide. (Effective 1/13/09)

PA550 (HB5375) – Allows the establishment of voluntary Promise Zones to assist qualifying students with college tuition costs. (Effective 1/13/09)

PA561 (HB6726) – Corrects an error in the formula used to calculate the Foundation Allowance for public school academies; amends the School Aid Act to correct funding to 20j districts; cleans up language in School Aid Act providing for members of the Executive Committee of the Early Childhood Investment Corporation. (Effective 1/15/09)

PA582 (SB1039) – Authorizes Intermediate School Districts to develop and make available an early intervention program for kindergarten to third grade to instruct teachers how to monitor individual student learning and provide instructional supports to avoid inappropriate referrals to special education. (Effective 1/15/09)

PA583 (SB1252) – Amends the Revised School Code to require criminal record checks of all substitute bus drivers. (Effective 1/15/09)

95th Legislature

SENATE BILLS

SB129-30 **Election Canvassing** (Brown, R-Fawn River Twp.) – Bills to amend Michigan Election law to simplify the canvassing of school elections; tie-barred to each other and to SB455. *[Passed the Senate; Referred to House Ethics and Elections Committee]*

SB275 **Anti-Bullying** (Jelinek, R-Three Oaks) - A bill to amend the Revised School Code to require all school districts to have anti-bullying policies. *[Referred to Senate Education Committee]*

SB365 **Health Education** (George, R-Kalamazoo) – A bill to amend the Revised School Code to require physical education and health education in grades K-8; prohibits opt-out classes to meet the requirement; tie-barred to SB366. *[Passed Senate Health Policy Committee; Referred to Senate Appropriations Committee]*

SB366 **Health Education** (Allen, R-Traverse City) – A bill to amend the Revised School Code to require school districts to provide physical education and health education in grades K-8 to qualify for school aid; tie-barred to SB365. *[Passed Senate Health Policy Committee; Referred to Senate Appropriations Committee]*

SB369 **Site Plan Approval** (Olshove, R-Warren) – A bill to amend the Revised School Code to require school building site plan approval by local units of government. *[Referred to senate Education Committee]*

SB394 **Recall Elections** (Switalski, D-Roseville) – A bill to amend Michigan Election law to restrict recall elections to specific reasons of misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance. *[Referred to Senate Campaign and Election Oversight Committee]*

SB451-53 **Failing Schools** (Clarke, D-Detroit) – Bills to provide various reforms, mandates and incentives to Detroit’s failing schools who meet certain criteria related to AYP, accreditation, and academic performance. *[Referred to Senate Education Committee]*

SB455 **Election Recount Petition** (Brown, R-Fawn River Twp.) – A bill to amend Michigan Election law to require a recount petition for a school district election to be filed with the clerk that certified the result of the election; tie-barred to SB129-30. *[Passed the Senate; Referred to the House Ethics and Elections Committee]*

SB457 School Operation (Switalski, D-Roseville) – A bill to amend the Revised School Code to prohibit a school district from operating a school or any other educational program outside the boundaries of that school district without the written permission of the board of the school district in which the school or program is located. *[Referred to Senate Education Committee]*

SB467 Cell Phones (Kahn, R-Saginaw Twp.) – A bill to amend the Pupil Transportation Act to prohibit the use of cell phones while operating a school bus. *[Referred to Senate Education Committee]*

SB564 Charter School Enrollment (VanWoerkom, R-Norton Shores) – A bill to amend the Revised School Code to provide enrollment priority to a sibling of a pupil enrolled in a public school academy (PSA), or to a pupil who transfers from a PSA pursuant to an agreement between the PSAs that provides for this enrollment priority. *[Referred to senate Education Committee]*

SB592 Energy Cooperative (Kuipers, R-Holland) – A bill to amend the Revised School Code to allow the board of a school district or intermediate school district to acquire fuel, electricity, or natural gas through a purchasing cooperative for up to five years; energy commodities could be paid from operating funds or from the proceeds of bonds or notes issued for this purpose. *[Passed out of the Senate Education Committee]*

SB636-39 Neighborhood Schools (Kuipers, R-Holland) – A package of bills to restructure or takeover failing school buildings meeting certain AYP, accreditation, or academic performance criteria. *[Referred to Senate education Committee]*

HOUSE BILLS

HB4047 First Class District (Scott, D-Detroit) – A bill to amend the Revised School Code to specify that a school district having a first class designation as of September 1, 2008 would continue that designation until July 1, 2010, regardless of pupil membership. *[Passed the House; Referred to Senate Education Committee]*

HB4219 Contracted Services (Miller, D-Mt. Clemens) – A bill to allow 3rd party contracting of non-instructional services as a subject of collective bargaining. *[Reported out of House Labor Committee]*

HB4313 Sinking Funds (Meadows, D-E. Lansing) – A bill to expand the use of sinking funds for technology and school bus purchases; limits terms to 10 years for technology and bus purchases; limits elections to May and November. *[Passed the House; Referred to Senate Finance Committee]*

HB4410 **MMC Amendment** (Sheltrown, D-West Branch) – A bill to amend the Revised School Code to allow multiple pathways to achieve high school graduation requirements of the Michigan Merit Curriculum. *[Referred to House Education Committee]*

HB4447 **2009-10 School Aid** (Brown, D-Pigeon) – House version of the 2009-10 School Aid bill. *[Passed the House; Senate version reported out of Senate Appropriations Committee]*

HB4644-45 **Drivers License** (Johnson, D-Detroit) – A bill to deny or suspend the driver’s license of students willfully and repeatedly absent from school. *[Passed House Transportation Committee; Referred to House Education Committee]*

HB4739 **Contracted Services** (Melton, D-Auburn Hills) – A bill to amended PA 336 of 1947 to allow current school employees to offer bids or alternative plans when employers are considering 3rd party contracting of non-instructional services. *[Referred to House Labor Committee]*

HB4787-89 **Failing Schools** (Melton, D-Auburn Hills) – A package of bills to restructure or takeover failing school buildings meeting certain AYP, accreditation, or academic performance criteria. *[Reported out of House Education Committee]*

HB4792 **Anti-Bullying** (Scott, R-Grand Blanc) – A bill to encourage school boards to involve parents and police agencies when developing anti-bullying policies. *[Referred to House Education Committee]*

HB4878 **Diabetes Training** (Jones, R-Grand Ledge) – A bill to amend the Revised School Code to require diabetes training for certain staff to care for diabetic students while in school. *[Referred to House Health Policy Committee]*

HB4923-24 **Health Education** (Bauer, D-Lansing: Proos, R-St. Joseph) – Bills to amend the Revised School Code to require physical education and health education in grades K-8; prohibits opt-out classes to meet the requirement. *[Referred to House education Committee]*

HB4979-80 **Mandate Rollback Contract** (Pavlov, R-St. Clair) – Bills to amend the Revised School Code to allow the Superintendent of Public Instruction to waive certain statutory and administrative requirements for schools by entering into a specific, measurable performance-based contract. *[Referred to House Education Committee]*

HB4994 **SET Payment** (Melton, D-Auburn Hills) – A bill to amend the 2009-10 School Aid bill to adjust (increase) the per pupil allocation for school districts who pay more into the SET than they received for all pupils in 2008-09 for the State portion of the Foundation Allowance. *[Referred to House Education Committee]*

HB5021 **Dating Violence** (Warren, D-Ann Arbor) – A bill to amend the Revised School Code to require all middle and high schools to have a policy on dating violence, and to require content be taught in health classes. *[Referred to House Education Committee]*

HB5050 **Teacher Strikes** (Rogers, R-Brighton) – A bill to amend PA 336 of 1947 to impose fines and court costs on striking teachers. *[Referred to House Labor Committee]*

HB5051 **Teacher Strikes** (Womack, R-Detroit) – A bill to amend the Revised School Code to suspend or revoke the teaching certificate of striking teachers. *[Referred to House Labor Committee]*



TASK FORCE ACTIVITIES

2008-09 TASK FORCE ACTIVITIES REPORT

MCEA Task Forces are a key vehicle for communication, leadership, mentoring and networking. The task forces, each with representation from MCEA districts, meet monthly during the school year to focus on their areas of specialization and promote success among urban students. Each task force is assisted by MCEA staff members who facilitate their efforts. The task forces play a key role in state and federal policy matters and often work on issues of common concern.

During the 2008-09 school year, a timely and thought-provoking series of Lead-In programs complementing the monthly task force meetings continued to be successful. The intent of the lead-in programs is to provide information while promoting communication and collaboration among MCEA Task Forces. Oftentimes, the lead-in speaker will meet with task force members following a presentation to answer questions and get feedback from Middle Cities districts. A summary of the 2008-09 lead-in programs and task force activities follows.

September 10, 2008 – Education YES!...Maybe

Join Paul Bielawski, Special Assistant, Office of Education Assessment & Accountability, provided information about the changes to Michigan's accreditation system.

October 1, 2008 – I Can Do What?

Sally Vaughn, Deputy Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer, MDE, will provided information about the wide array of things local districts can do without seeking permission or a waiver from MDE.

November 5, 2008 – Graduating on Time

Meg Ropp, Director of the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI), will provide information about computing on-time graduation.

December 4, 2008 – SIP Frameworks

Linda Forward, Academic Support Consultant Supervisor, School

Improvement: Curriculum and Instruction/MDE, reviewed the processes and tools used with the School Improvement Frameworks. She will also shared the new process relative to reporting district school improvement.

February 4, 2009 – Education YES! Part Deux

MaryAlice Galloway, Special Assistant to Chief Academic Officer MDE, followed up on Paul Bielawski's September 2008 presentation on the Education YES! changes that were under review at that time. Mary Alice reviewed the proposed new system and its MDE approval process.

March 4, 2009 – Evaluation Updates

Joseph Martineau, Supervisor of General Assessment, MDE, provided information regarding Michigan Department of Education student performance evaluation requirements.

April 1, 2009 – Helping Hands

WBetty Underwood, Director, School Improvement, MDE, will reviewed a comprehensive list of services that are provided to Michigan's high priority schools. Betty also discussed the delivery system for these services from the State to the regional and local level.

May 8, 2009 – Title I Changes (Again)

Michael Radke, Assistant Director, School Improvement, MDE, explained the new Title I requirements.

ACTIVITIES REPORT BY TASK FORCE

Adult and Alternative Education

Addressed the transition of adult education, recent DLEG reports, and 107 language.

Assessment and Evaluation

The Assessment and Evaluation Task Force considered MEAP testing administration and timing. The group also considered the overall assessment calendar, sharing experiences between districts. Finally, the task force discussed MME administration and scoring.

English Language Arts and Social Studies

Discussed formative and MEAP assessment. Task force also considered curriculum alignment, including planning guides, GLCE changes, power standards and changes in sequencing. Members also focused on high school assessment, HSCE's, and curriculum planning. Finally, the task force discussed changes in social studies curriculum and the realignment of expectations.

Early Childhood

The Early Childhood Task Force addressed funding issues associated with early childhood programs, including blended funding possibilities. They also discussed Head Start policies, including referrals.

Educational Technology

The Ed Tech Task force focused on technology curriculum in K-12 as well as the online learning experience requirement for high school graduation. Members also discussed technology planning processes and acceptable use policies. Finally, the group reviewed MDE initiatives regarding technology in schools.

Instruction and Professional Development

The Instruction and Professional Development Task Force discussed topics including the new high school math curriculum, personal curriculum modification, and professional development opportunities to address bullying.

Personnel and Labor

The Personnel/Labor Task force discussed crisis intervention plans and the MEA retirement proposal.

Principals

The Principals Task Force addressed credit recovery programs, graduation requirements, and school improvement processes. The members also discussed ACT prep classes and preparation for the MME. Finally, the group focused on how to use data in decision-making.

Public Relations

The Public Relations Task Force addressed social networking for districts, working with limited PR resources, and how districts can deliver messages clearly and concisely.

Science and Math Task Force

The Science and Math Task Force discussed curriculum changes in the two subject areas, innovative instruction tools and the Impact Math program. The group also considered K-8 evaluation and assessment tools, as well as ACT scoring and the correlation to MMES.

Special Education

The Special Education Task Force addressed issues with disproportionality and deaf interpreter policies.



MIDDLE CITIES RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES

James A. Craig, Director & Chief Operating Officer

This year concluded another successful year for the Middle Cities Risk Management Trust and the Middle Cities Workers' Compensation Fund. Middle Cities operates two government entity pools; the Trust provides property and casualty coverage for the 37 member participants, and the Fund provides workers compensation coverage for 13 members. James Craig was appointed as the Director and Chief Operating Officer of the Trust and Fund in November 2008.

Middle Cities Risk Management Trust

In 2008-09, there were several highlights for the Trust.

- Errors and Omissions coverage was added to the BASICS program (\$1,000,000 limit).
- Employment Practices coverage was added to the BASICS program (\$1,000,000 limit).
- Administrative Hearings coverage was added to the BASICS program (\$100,000 limit).
- \$2.78 million was paid to members in contribution credits and surplus distribution. Since the inception of the Trust, \$22.9 million has been returned to members.
- 497 bus drivers participated in driver safety training program offered by the Trust, in partnership with the Michigan Association of Pupil Transportation.

Middle Cities Workers' Compensation Fund

The Fund focused on reducing worker compensation losses in 2008-09.

- A Loss Control Initiative was renewed with a focus on identifying specific loss trends and developing loss prevention measures.
- The number of claims that the Fund received decreased for the fifth year in a row; as of June 30, the Fund had received 551 claims for the year.
- The incurred cost per claim also declined; as of June 30, only 40% of the Loss Fund was utilized to cover losses.



STATISTICAL REPORTS

Data Table	Page
Enrollment Data	40
Comparative Revenue Data	42
Comparative Expenditure Data	44
Comparative Miscellaneous Data	46
Teacher Salary Survey Data	48
FTE Data	50
Free and Reduced Lunch Data	52
Title I Allocation Data	54
Racial and Ethnic Demographic Data	56

Middle Cities Education Association Ranked by 2008 Fall Enrollment

District	Fall 2008 Enrollment
Grand Rapids	18,204.00
Dearborn	17,941.00
Lansing	14,160.00
Flint	13,798.00
Wayne-Westland	12,934.00
Kalamazoo	11,696.00
Waterford	11,381.00
Port Huron	10,531.00
Saginaw	9,484.00
Bay City	8,951.00
Southfield	8,787.00
Pontiac	7,046.00
Monroe	6,594.00
Battle Creek	6,439.00
Jackson	6,351.00
Muskegon	5,187.00
Garden City	5,122.00
Hazel Park	4,998.00
Romulus	4,044.00
Ferndale	4,025.00
Niles	3,895.00
Ypsilanti	3,851.00
Mt. Pleasant	3,714.00
Benton Harbor	3,525.00
Inkster	3,153.00
Highland Park	2,856.00
Mt. Clemens	2,046.00
Willow Run	1,997.00
Westwood	1,935.00
Beecher	1,796.00
Muskegon Heights	1,796.00
Albion	1,175.00
Buena Vista	983.00
<i>Total</i>	220,395.00
<i>Average</i>	6,678.64

Data Sources

Free and Reduced Lunch Counts. CEPI. Available: http://www.michigan.gov/cepi/0,1607,7-113-21423_30451_36965---,00.html

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