



Michigan Legislature Bill Package Regarding School Reopening

The Michigan Senate passed a package of legislation that will implement an agreement between Republican Legislative leaders and Governor Gretchen Whitmer to amend the State School Aid Act. Specifically, the bills will allow flexibility for local school districts to make the final determination as to whether they will offer in-person or online learning for the entirety of the 2020-2021 school year.

Here is a brief summary of the key components of the Senate-passed legislation:

- **MODE OF INSTRUCTION** All districts can offer in person or virtual learning as the local district and the local health department determine is safe or appropriate. (All schools can be all virtual for the full school year, or all in-person, or a blend). All schools must deliver the equivalent content that would be delivered in 180 days or 1098 hours in a non-pandemic year, but it is not based on physical presence of students. Districts are encouraged to prioritize in-person instruction for K-5 students.
- **PUPIL COUNTS:**
 - 75 percent weighted based on last year, 25 percent this year's pupil count
 - All schools will use the cyber counting method for this year — meaning, they must have 1 2-way interaction with a student once per month for the duration of the school year to count the student.
- **DAYS/HOURS** The days and hours requirement will be waived for all districts for the 20-21 school year, **HOWEVER**, all districts must produce a board-adopted plan by October 1, and update it every 30 days, that includes the following:
 - a statement of necessity of the plan
 - the mode(s) of education that will be provided
 - educational goals
 - a statement of how the district will meet state-adopted academic standards
 - explanation of how equitable access/and materials will be provided
 - description of how students with disabilities will be accommodated
 - a plan to include at least two 2-way interactions for at least 75 percent of students each week
 - academic goals must include increased pupil achievement, or growth on a benchmark assessment
 - must select a benchmark test and assurance that district will administer to all pupils
 - a 2-way interaction is defined as a teacher initiated-contact with a student, which the student responds to at least once. It could be: an email, a text message, a phone call, a video conference, or face-to-face interaction.

- **BENCHMARK ASSESSMENTS**

- Requirement that districts conduct benchmark assessments, twice during the year, based on 5 approved assessments from MDE, one must be no-cost/or a local assessment, if local, district must submit their choice and describe how it will measure learning loss to CEPI.
 - The first assessment must be administered in the first quarter, and second before the end of the school year
 - Data will be submitted through regional hub, provided to MDE and CEPI and ONLY be used to create a report that is state level, not disaggregated to district or subgroup level
 - Districts will need to set its own academic goals, based in part with those benchmarks, adopted by boards and posted to website
- Lastly, the bills contain no language regarding outsourcing, vouchers, or test-based funding.