



17111 G Drive North, Marshall, MI 49068 / P 269.781.5141 / F 269.781.7071 / [www.calhounisd.org](http://www.calhounisd.org)

## **Legislative Committee Update**

**March 19, 2007**

### 2006-07 School Aid:

As many of you probably know, the state is in serious fiscal distress and the School Aid Fund is short \$377M in fully funding the 2006-07 School Aid budget. There has been talk about either cutting schools \$224/pupil or trying to generate additional state revenue to shore up the budget.

As you can imagine, nearly every legislator is running away from a tax increase, but all the economists agree that Michigan cannot “cut it’s way out of the structural budget situation”. There is sure to be up-to-date information at the upcoming Spring Conference in my Legislative Update – stay tuned.

### 2007-08 School Aid:

I list below some pupil accounting issues that I am watching on our members behalf:

- ♦ Providing a Section 6(6) amendment to allow a pupil to be counted by a non-resident district if they have been permanently expelled and not reinstated by their resident district [we are working on what this language actually means]
- ♦ Seeking a Section 6(7) amendment that would bring the two alternative count dates in line – in the Fall, we use the immediately following day of instruction, in the Spring, we use the immediately preceding day of instruction
- ♦ Seeking clarification about the language in Section 19 which would require ISDs to audit for “reasonable accuracy” the Graduation / Dropout information
- ♦ The Governor’s proposal continues / increases funding for declining enrollment districts (on a three year average) – this benefits many of our member districts
- ♦ Seeking additional funding for added costs for adjudicated youth or child-caring youth programs (Section 24)
- ♦ There is no mention in the Governor’s proposal to change funding for developmental kindergarten programs (our Association was instrumental in seeking data to defeat this)
- ♦ Seeking changes in the Governor’s recommendation for full-day pre-school matched with full-day kindergarten programs (we like the \$\$ but don’t like the restrictions)
- ♦ ISDs and LEAs would share in a proposed 2.5% increase (\$175/pupil) – this is not possible without additional revenue to the state
- ♦ Adult Education funding would now all be eligible for current programs (the set-aside for new programs fell flat), fighting to restore funding to 90/10 vs. recommended 75/25

If members would like a more detailed analysis, please let me know ([rochob@calhounisd.org](mailto:rochob@calhounisd.org))

MPAAA Legislative Committee:

- ♦ Members are carefully watching the Manual revisions for two items: 1) implementing the MDE approval to move the credit limits for virtual learning programs from 2 to 3 credits per semester and 2) Work-Based Learning – drafts have been circulated to members and information has gone to local districts; now the Manual committee work will begin
- ♦ The current MME / ACT portion of the High School Test is troublesome to districts due to the very strict guidelines from ACT about test administration. Most districts are finding it is better to administer the ACT portion with only Grade 11 students in school. This presents districts (high schools) with instructional clock hour problems. For 2006-07, MDE has allowed districts to count instructional time for Grade 11 students and PD in lieu of instruction for Grade 9, 10 and 12 students (if provided to teachers not administering the MEAP). You probably know this is not consistent with previous rulings relative to applying PD to a class of students for which the teacher PD is provided.
- ♦ There was a sub-committee assigned to discuss the impact of cohort rate calculations for AYP as well as Graduation / Dropout rates and I'm not sure the status but will report at the Spring Conference.
- ♦ Choice discussions ongoing between MDE and MPAAA officials – while there won't like be legislative changes, it is clear there is agreement on more information being available to the field relative to the process and potential consequences. There will be a session on this topic at the Spring Conference.
- ♦ ISD auditors have asked MDE for consideration on changes in the audit cycle for those small districts that have only one site; discussions ongoing.