

# Pending Legislation During the 2020 Lame Duck Session (100<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session)



*Bills MEA is monitoring during "lame duck" 2020:*

- **Interim Certificate (SB 657)** - sponsored by Sen. Lana Theis (R-Brighton). This bill would establish a process for an individual to earn an interim teaching certificate for special education. MEA opposes.
- **Community College Nursing B.S. Degree (SB 1055)** - sponsored by Sen. Aric Nesbitt (R-Lawton) This bill allows community colleges to grant a Bachelor of Science degrees in nursing. MEA opposes.
- **Michigan Merit Curriculum (HB 4282)** - sponsored by Rep. Roger Hauck (R-Mt. Pleasant). A bill to allow occupational safety and health administration (MIOSHA) training as alternative to health credit requirement for the Michigan Merit Curriculum. MEA opposes.
- **Retirees Substituting (HB 5357)** - sponsored by Rep. Steve Johnson (R-Wayland). This bill would extend the sunset for certain retirees to be reemployed as a substitute teacher and it would also remove the requirement that reporting units pay unfunded actuarial accrued liability associated with this employment. MEA opposes.
- **e-Learning (HB 5910)** - sponsored by Rep. Pamela Hornberger (R-Chesterfield Township). A bill to allow electronic learning days.
- **Sinking Funds (SB 973)** - sponsored by Sen. Dale Zorn (R-Ida). A bill to allow the permissible use of sinking funds to include school bus purchasing.
- **State Board Election (SB 25)** – sponsored by Sen. Ed McBroom (R-Vulcan). A bill to elect members of the state board of education by region as opposed to statewide.
- **Mental Health (SB 41)** – sponsored by Sen. Sylvia Santana (D-Detroit). A bill to allow mental health training to be counted towards professional development.
- **Work Permits (SB 910)** – sponsored by Sen. Roger Victory (R-Hudsonville). A bill to that could allow during a state of emergency to allow a minor to submit an application for a work permit by e-mail, facsimile, or mail.
- **Substitute Teachers (HB 4342)** – sponsored by Rep. Brad Paquette (R-Niles). A bill for the 20-21 school year only to allow anyone employed by or working at a school district or intermediate school district to be a substitute teacher. MEA opposes.
- **SS Curriculum (HB 4826)** – sponsored by Rep. Tommy Brann (R-Wyoming). A bill that would encourage school districts to include a program of instruction in free enterprise in their social studies curriculum for grades 9 through 12.

*Bills that we are advocating for to be taken up and passed in lame duck:*

- **Fixes for hazard pay (no bill number yet)** – MEA is advocating for language fixes to the school employee hazard pay legislation that leaves out a number of school employees from receiving the grants. (See letter enclosed.)
- **Evaluation (SB 1177)** - sponsored by Sen. Ken Horn (R-Saginaw). This bill would reduce the growth data component of evaluation from 40 percent to 0 percent. MEA supports.
- **Evaluation (HB 4207)** - sponsored by Rep. Scott VanSingel (R-Grant). A bill to prohibit a limit on the number of teachers rated as highly effective. MEA supports.
- **M-STEP (SB 1041)** – sponsored by Sen. Erika Giess (D-Taylor). A bill to suspend the M-STEP examination for the 2020-2021 school year.
- **Merit Examination (SB 1042)** - sponsored by Sen. Jeff Irwin (D-Ann Arbor). A bill to suspend the Michigan Merit Examination for the 2020-2021 school year.
- **Kindergarten Readiness (SB 1043)** – sponsored by Sen. Sean McCann (D-Kalamazoo). A bill that would suspend the kindergarten readiness assessment for the 2020-2021 school year.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Reading (SB 1045)** – sponsored by Sen. Dayna Polehanki (D-Livonia). This bill would suspend the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading law for the 2020-2021 school year.
- **Eval (HB 4208)** - sponsored by Rep. Steven Johnson (R-Wayland) This bill would allow for a conflict of interest provisions for performance evaluation systems for public school teachers by family members. MEA supports. [Passed House, in Senate Education Committee]
- **Third Grade Reading (SB 633)** - sponsored by Sen. Dayna Polehanki (D-Livonia). A bill to eliminate third grade reading retention. MEA supports.
- **Third Grade Reading (HB 4586)** - sponsored by Rep. Kristy Pagan (D-Canton). This bill would amend the third grade reading law.
- **Michigan Merit Curriculum (HB 4271)** - sponsored by Rep. Gary Howell (R-North Branch). A bill to revise the mathematics requirement for the Michigan Merit Curriculum. MEA supports.
- **Michigan Merit Curriculum (SB 0600)** - sponsored by Sen. Jon Bumstead (R-Newaygo). A bill to modify the Michigan Merit Curriculum. MEA supports the direction of this bill.
- **Michigan Merit Curriculum (SB 0601)** - sponsored by Sen. Jon Bumstead (R-Newaygo). A bill to modify the Michigan Merit Curriculum. MEA supports the direction of this bill.
- **Merit Exam (HB 6016 and HB 6017)** - sponsored by Rep. Matt Koleszar (D-Plymouth). Bills to suspend the Michigan merit examination as requirement for state school aid funding for the 2020-2021 school year.
- **M-STEP (HB 6014)** - sponsored by Rep. Lori Stone (D-Warren). A bill to suspend the M-STEP examination for the 2020-2021 school year.
- **Kindergarten Readiness (HB 6018)** - sponsored by Rep. Darrin Camilleri (D-Brownstown). A bill that would suspend the kindergarten readiness assessment for the 2020-2021 school year.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Reading (HB 6015)** - sponsored by Rep. Sarah Anthony (D-Lansing). This bill would suspend the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading law for the 2020-2021 school year.
- **School Bus Safety (HB 5038)** - sponsored by Rep. Jack O'Malley (R-Lake Ann). A bill to prohibit unauthorized individuals from entering a school bus. MEA supports.

- **School Bus safety (HB 5039)** - sponsored by Rep. Daire Renden (R – Lake City). A bill to prohibit unauthorized individuals from entering a school bus. MEA supports.
- **School Bus Safety (HB 5040)** - sponsored by Rep. Jewell Jones (D – Inkster). A bill for allowable painting of school buses to warn unauthorized individuals from entering a school bus. MEA supports.
- **School Bus Safety (HB 5041)** - sponsored by Rep. Tyrone Carter (D – Detroit). A bill to allow school bus stop-arm cameras and provide penalties for violations. MEA supports.
- **School Bus Safety (HB 5042)** - sponsored by Rep. Greg VanWoerkom (R – Norton Shores). A bill to allow school bus stop-arm cameras and provide penalties for violations. MEA supports.
- **Vision Testing (HB 5297)** - sponsored by Rep. Pamela Hornberger (R-Chesterfield Township). A bill to require certain pupils to have a comprehensive eye and vision test, if they are not reading at grade level.
- **School Start (HB 4368 & HB 4369)** - sponsored by Rep. Pamela Hornberger (R-Chesterfield Township) These bills would together repeal two sections of the State School Aid Act and the Revised School Code regarding the school calendar and Labor Day waivers.
- **Cursive (HB 4483)** - sponsored by Rep. Brenda Carter (D-Pontiac). A bill to create and make optional a model program for curriculum in cursive handwriting.
- **Parapro to Teachers (HB 5958)** - sponsored by Rep. Kevin Hertel (D-St Clair Shores). This bill would create a paraprofessionals to teachers grant program.
- **Parapro to Teachers (HB 5959)** - sponsored by Rep. Matt Koleszar (D-Plymouth). This bill would create a paraprofessionals to teachers grant program.
- **Counselors (HB 4054)** - sponsored by Rep. Leslie Love (D-Oak Park). This bill would establish a minimum number of school counselors to be employed by a school district.
- **WorkKeys (HB 4162)** - sponsored by Rep. John Reilly (R-Oakland). This bill would remove the requirement for WorkKeys Exam. MEA supports. [Passed House, in Senate Gov Ops Committee]
- **Loan Forgiveness (HB 6209)** - sponsored by Rep. Darrin Camilleri (D-Brownstown). This bill would create a loan forgiveness program for student loans for teachers.
- **Librarians (HB 4392)** - sponsored by Rep. Darrin Camilleri (D-Brownstown). This bill would require librarians (certified library media specialist) in all public schools.
- **Dental Exam (HB 4223)** - sponsored by Rep. Scott VanSigel (R-Grant). This bill would require a dental exam in kindergarten or first grade. [Passed House, Moved from Committee – On Senate Floor]
- **ISD Election (HB 4088)** - sponsored by Rep. Pamela Hornberger (R-Chesterfield Township). This bill would require a popular election of intermediate school board members.
- **Tax Credit (HB 4582)** - sponsored by Rep. Angela Witwer (D-Delta Township). A bill to create an income tax credit for expenditures by certain school teachers for certain supplies.
- **Prohibited Subjects (HB 4907)** - sponsored by Rep. Brenda Carter (D-Pontiac). A bill to revise prohibited subjects of bargaining for public school employers.
- **Dues Deduction (HB 4821)** - sponsored by Rep. Christine Greig (D-Farmington). This bill would remove the prohibition against public school employers' use of public school resources to collect union dues.

- **Wages (HB 4822)** - sponsored by Rep. Yousef Rabhi (D-Ann Arbor). This bill would repeal the requirement that wages and benefits not increase after expiration of collective bargaining agreement.
- **Health Insurance (HB 5956)** - sponsored by Rep. Mari Manoogian (D-Birmingham). A bill to modify compensation and benefits of medical benefit plan contributions for public school employers.

*Updated Dec. 1, 2020*



November 13, 2020

The Honorable Lee Chatfield  
Michigan Speaker of the House  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Rep. Chatfield:

We greatly appreciate the acknowledgment of the hard work and sacrifices by Michigan K-12 school employees during the pandemic as shown by the grants for teachers and school support staff passed by the Legislature and recently put into practice by the Department of Treasury. As union representatives for many of these employees, we are acutely aware that our members were and continue to be on the front lines of the COVID-19 crisis along with many others, and we know the intent of these grants is to recognize that fact.

However, due to some language issues in the legislation that was passed, many dedicated school employees are being left out of these grants. We do not believe this is intentional in any way, and are asking that, in the lame duck session of the legislature, these issues be addressed. Recent Treasury guidance cleared up potential issues regarding grants to some employees like bus drivers, counselors and social workers – we believe similarly simple actions can be taken to clear up remaining issues.

Legislative language for these grants was specific to K-12, which left out many school employees who are early childhood center educators (such as Great Start Readiness Programs), adult and ESL teachers, post-secondary special education (for ages 18-26) and other educators and staff who support student needs at every level of public education. Whether these employees work for local school districts, ISDs or higher education entities, they all did amazing work to modify learning opportunities for students amidst the pandemic and should be recognized along with their K-12 colleagues.

We are also receiving reports of school districts that are failing to provide names for groups of employees who are eligible for the grants, and others who are requiring proof of additional pandemic related duties that are not required under the law. We are working with existing guidance to inform districts that they are acting in error and to rectify situations, but we believe you should be aware of these issues so you can work with us to include as many school employees in these grants, as was clearly intended. Although we remain concerned about the different levels of grants available to teachers versus support staff, we know everyone involved wants to see the appropriated funds paid out to employees as intended.

We hope minor language changes can be made swiftly by the Legislature and signed into law by the Governor so that all deserving school employees can be recognized for their outstanding efforts and sacrifices during this pandemic. We sincerely believe these oversights can be easily addressed and hope that you'll work with us to accomplish their passage.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paula Herbart".

Paula Herbart  
MEA President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Hecker".

David Hecker  
AFT Michigan President

CC: Gov. Whitmer, Sen. Shirkey, Sen. Ananich, Rep. Greig