

HOUSE BILL NO. 5926

September 11, 2024, Introduced by Reps. DeBoer, Jaime Greene, Martin and Johnsen and referred to the Committee on Government Operations.

A bill to amend 1979 PA 94, entitled
"The state school aid act of 1979,"
by amending sections 11, 31aa, and 99h (MCL 388.1611, 388.1631aa,
and 388.1699h), as amended by 2024 PA 120, and by adding section
97h.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 11. (1) ~~For the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024,~~
2 ~~there is appropriated for the public schools of this state and~~
3 ~~certain other state purposes relating to education the sum of~~
4 ~~\$18,418,357,800.00 from the state school aid fund, the sum of~~
5 ~~\$87,900,000.00 from the general fund, an amount not to exceed~~

~~\$72,000,000.00 from the community district education trust fund~~
~~created under section 12 of the Michigan trust fund act, 2000 PA~~
~~489, MCL 12.262, an amount not to exceed \$245,000,000.00 from the~~
~~school consolidation and infrastructure fund created under section~~
~~11x, an amount not to exceed \$125,000,000.00 from the school~~
~~transportation fund created under section 22k, an amount not to~~
~~exceed \$71,000,000.00 from the enrollment stabilization fund~~
~~created under section 29, an amount not to exceed \$90,000,000.00~~
~~from the school meals reserve fund created under section 30e, an~~
~~amount not to exceed \$18,000,000.00 from the great start readiness~~
~~program reserve fund created under section 32e, and an amount not~~
~~to exceed \$240,650,000.00 from the MPSERS retirement obligation~~
~~reform reserve fund created under section 147b. For the fiscal year~~
~~ending September 30, 2025, there is appropriated for the public~~
~~schools of this state and certain other state purposes relating to~~
~~education the sum of \$17,643,551,300.00~~ **\$17,646,801,300.00** from the
~~state school aid fund, the sum of \$78,830,600.00~~ **\$380,330,600.00**
~~from the general fund, an amount not to exceed \$41,000,000.00 from~~
~~the community district education trust fund created under section~~
~~12 of the Michigan trust fund act, 2000 PA 489, MCL 12.262, an~~
~~amount not to exceed \$125,000,000.00 from the school transportation~~
~~fund created under section 22k, an amount not to exceed~~
~~\$71,000,000.00 from the enrollment stabilization fund created under~~
~~section 29, an amount not to exceed \$30,000,000.00 from the school~~
~~meals reserve fund created under section 30e, an amount not to~~
~~exceed \$18,000,000.00 from the great start readiness program~~
~~reserve fund created under section 32e, an amount not to exceed~~
~~\$334,100,000.00 from the MPSERS retirement obligation reform~~
~~reserve fund created under section 147b, and an amount not to~~

1 exceed \$30,000,000.00 from the educator fellowship public provider
2 fund created in section 27d. In addition, all available federal
3 funds are only appropriated as allocated in this article for the
4 fiscal ~~years~~**year** ending ~~September 30, 2024 and September 30, 2025.~~

5 (2) The appropriations under this section are allocated as
6 provided in this article. Money appropriated under this section
7 from the general fund must be expended to fund the purposes of this
8 article before the expenditure of money appropriated under this
9 section from the state school aid fund.

10 (3) Any general fund allocations under this article that are
11 not expended by the end of the fiscal year are transferred to the
12 school aid stabilization fund created under section 11a.

13 Sec. 31aa. (1) From the state school aid fund money
14 appropriated in section 11, there is allocated \$25,000,000.00 for
15 2024-2025, and from the general fund money appropriated in section
16 11, there is allocated ~~\$1,500,000.00~~**\$303,000,000.00** for 2024-2025
17 only, to provide payments to districts, intermediate districts,
18 nonpublic schools, and the Michigan Schools for the Deaf and Blind
19 that opt in and agree to receive funding under this section, for
20 activities to improve student mental health and improve student
21 safety. **Fifty percent of the funds allocated under this section**
22 **must be used for school safety purposes, including, but not limited**
23 **to, school resource officers.** The allowable expenditures of funds
24 under this section ~~are as follows:~~**include, but are not limited to,**
25 **the following:**

26 (a) Hiring or contracting for support staff for student mental
27 health needs, including, but not limited to, school psychologists,
28 social workers, counselors, and school nurses.

29 (b) Purchasing and implementing mental health screening tools.

(c) Purchasing a statewide, integrated technology platform, such as bhworks, that streamlines behavioral health documentation and care coordination.

(d) Providing school-based mental health personnel access to consultation with behavioral health clinicians to respond to complex student mental health needs.

(e) Purchasing and implementing an online behavioral health tool moderated and led by licensed behavioral health professionals.

(f) Hiring or contracting a behavioral health coordinator.

(g) Evidence-based trainings to support mental health.

(h) Costs associated with collaboration between school employees, families, and community partners to address the academic, behavioral, and social needs of all students through collaborative partnerships, resource coordination, data collection, and data sharing.

(i) Costs associated with conducting a systematic school mental health needs assessment and resource mapping that identifies programmatic and systemic needs and helps staff determine priorities and create action plans.

(j) Any other mental health service or product necessary to improve or maintain the mental health of students and staff.

(k) ~~(j)~~ Coordination with local law enforcement.

(l) ~~(k)~~ Training for school staff on threat assessment.

(m) ~~(l)~~ Training for school staff and students on threat response.

(n) ~~(m)~~ Training for school staff on crisis communication.

(o) ~~(n)~~ Safety infrastructure, including, but not limited to, cameras, door blocks, hardened vestibules, window screening, and technology necessary to operate buzzer systems. This may also

1 include firearm detection software that integrates to existing
2 security cameras to detect and alert school personnel and first
3 responders to visible firearms on school property. **The software**
4 **described in the immediately preceding sentence must be organically**
5 **developed and proprietary to the company it is purchased from and**
6 **should not include any third-party or open-source data.**

7 (p) ~~(e)~~ Age-appropriate training for students and families on
8 responsible firearm ownership, including safe handling and safe
9 storage of firearms.

10 (q) ~~(p)~~ School resource officers.

11 (r) **Any other school safety service or product necessary to**
12 **improve or maintain security in buildings.**

13 (s) ~~(q)~~ Student Safety Management System, the information
14 technology platform and related services to improve student safety
15 by mitigating cyberbullying, school violence, human trafficking,
16 and self-harm that supports students from grades K to 12.

17 (t) ~~(r)~~ A secure platform, administered by the department of
18 state police, for school officials, emergency responders, and
19 emergency management coordinators to house all school safety-
20 related items, including, but not limited to, EOP templates, EOP
21 guidance, reference documents, and security assessments. The
22 platform should use existing password-protected access control
23 methods schools currently utilize and, to the extent possible, be
24 capable of integrating with existing platforms or technologies used
25 by districts for school safety. Through permissions-based access
26 control, the platform should be able to relay information clearly
27 and in real time to each person or entity necessary to provide a
28 unified response to a safety incident, or to take appropriate
29 action in response to an anticipated disruption to the normal

1 functions of the surrounding community.

2 **(u)** ~~(s)~~—Emergency infrastructure needs to respond to an
3 immediate threat to the health or safety of students and staff in
4 the district, intermediate district, nonpublic school, or the
5 Michigan Schools for the Deaf and Blind. A district, intermediate
6 district, nonpublic school, or the Michigan Schools for the Deaf
7 and Blind shall not expend funds for this purpose without first
8 obtaining approval from the department. In making a determination
9 of approval, the department shall, at a minimum, assess whether the
10 district, intermediate district, nonpublic school, or the Michigan
11 Schools for the Deaf and Blind is responding to an immediate threat
12 to the health or safety of students and staff, and whether the
13 district, intermediate district, nonpublic school, or the Michigan
14 Schools for the Deaf and Blind has other sources of funding that
15 should be utilized first.

16 **(v)** ~~(t)~~—A contract with a vendor for a comprehensive safety
17 and security assessment or a comprehensive safety and security
18 event assessment in schools operated by the district, intermediate
19 district, nonpublic school, or the Michigan Schools for the Deaf
20 and Blind.

21 **(w)** ~~(u)~~—An emergency response system.

22 (2) By not later than December 31 of each fiscal year, from
23 the state school aid fund money allocated in subsection (1), the
24 department shall make payments to districts, intermediate
25 districts, and the Michigan Schools for the Deaf and Blind that opt
26 in and agree to receive funding in an equal amount per pupil based
27 on the total number of pupils in membership in each district,
28 intermediate district, and the Michigan Schools for the Deaf and
29 Blind that opts in and agrees to receive funding. By December 31 of

each fiscal year, from the general fund money allocated in subsection (1), the department shall make payments to nonpublic schools that opt in and agree to receive funding in an equal amount per pupil based on the total number of pupils in membership in each nonpublic school that opts in and agrees to receive funding, using pupil counts determined by the department. The department shall ensure that the amount per pupil paid to nonpublic schools does not exceed the amount per pupil paid to districts and intermediate districts. Districts, intermediate districts, the Michigan Schools for the Deaf and Blind, and nonpublic schools may opt in and agree to receive funding in a form and manner determined by the department.

(3) Recipients of funding under this section must provide a final expense report to the department by June 1 of each fiscal year. If the department determines that the eligible recipient has misused the funds allocated under this section, the eligible recipient shall reimburse the department for the amount of state funding misused.

(4) Districts receiving funds under this section must coordinate with intermediate school districts to avoid duplication of services and to streamline delivery of services to students.

(5) Notwithstanding section 17b, the department shall make payments under this section on a schedule determined by the department.

(6) As provided under section 18a, recipients may expend funds under this section until the end of the fiscal year immediately following the fiscal year in which the funds are received.

Sec. 97h. (1) From the state school aid fund money appropriated in section 11, there is allocated for 2024-2025 only

1 an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000.00 to Wayne RESA for the
2 operation of the school safety and mental health commission.

3 (2) The commission must consist of all of the following
4 members who must be appointed by the governor as follows:

5 (a) One member from a list of 3 or more names submitted by the
6 minority leader of the house of representatives who has experience
7 in school mental health.

8 (b) One member from a list of 3 or more names submitted by the
9 speaker of the house of representatives who has a background in law
10 enforcement.

11 (c) One member from a list of 3 or more names submitted by the
12 speaker of the house of representatives who is a parent.

13 (d) One member from a list of 3 or more names submitted by the
14 senate minority leader who is a school psychologist or
15 psychiatrist.

16 (e) One member from a list of 3 or more names submitted by the
17 senate majority leader who is a prosecutor.

18 (f) One member from a list of 3 or more names submitted by the
19 senate majority leader who is a teacher.

20 (g) One member who has a background in school administration.

21 (h) One member who has experience in school-threat
22 assessments.

23 (i) One member who has experience in the provision of
24 inpatient treatment to children under age 18.

25 (3) The director of the department of health and human
26 services or the director's designee may be a member of the
27 commission. In addition, the following department heads or their
28 designees that are from within their respective departments or
29 agencies may be nonvoting, ex officio members of the commission:

1 (a) The director of the department of state police.

2 (b) The superintendent of public instruction.

3 (4) The governor shall appoint 5 of the first members to 2-
4 year terms and 4 of the first members to 4-year terms. After the
5 first appointments, the term of a member of the commission is 4
6 years or until a successor is appointed under subsection (2),
7 whichever is later.

8 (5) If a vacancy occurs on the commission, an individual must
9 be appointed in the same manner as prescribed under subsection (2)
10 to fill the vacancy for the balance of the term.

11 (6) The governor may remove a member of the commission for
12 incompetence, dereliction of duty, malfeasance, or nonfeasance in
13 office, or any other good cause.

14 (7) The commission shall meet at least quarterly.

15 (8) A majority of the members of the commission constitute a
16 quorum for transacting business. A vote of the majority of the
17 members of the commission serving is required for any action of the
18 commission.

19 (9) The commission shall conduct its business in compliance
20 with the open meetings act, 1976 PA 267, MCL 15.261 to 15.275.

21 (10) A writing that is prepared, owned, used, possessed, or
22 retained by the commission in performing an official function is
23 subject to the freedom of information act, 1976 PA 442, MCL 15.231
24 to 15.246.

25 (11) A member of the commission is not entitled to
26 compensation for service on the commission, but the commission may
27 reimburse a member for actual and necessary expenses incurred in
28 serving.

29 (12) The commission may do all of the following:

1 (a) Collaborate to provide recommendations to reduce youth
2 suicides and strengthen the mental health of school-aged children,
3 adolescents, and their families through a comprehensive, statewide
4 approach.

5 (b) Seek input from educational professionals, mental health
6 professionals, and organizations from across this state to suggest
7 approaches to identify and support students at risk of behavioral
8 health issues.

9 (c) Collaborate with the Michigan suicide prevention
10 commission on recommendations regarding youth suicide.

11 (d) Create and maintain an online community through which best
12 practices and resources can be shared, and convene symposiums with
13 other relevant commissions, organizations, and professionals.

14 (e) Convey recommendations to the department of licensing and
15 regulatory affairs and the bureau of construction codes within the
16 department of licensing and regulatory affairs concerning building
17 construction that is consistent with school safety needs.

18 (13) The commission may hire an executive director and staff.

19 (14) As used in this section, "commission" means the school
20 safety and mental health commission created in subsection (2).

21 Sec. 99h. (1) From the state school aid fund money
22 appropriated in section 11, there is allocated an amount not to
23 exceed ~~\$4,723,200.00~~ **\$5,973,200.00** for 2024-2025 for competitive
24 grants to districts and intermediate districts, and from the
25 general fund money appropriated in section 11, there is allocated
26 \$600,000.00 for 2024-2025 for competitive grants to nonpublic
27 schools, that provide pupils in grades pre-K to 12 with expanded
28 opportunities to improve mathematics, science, computer science,
29 and technology skills by participating in robotics competition

1 programs hosted by program providers including, but not limited to,
2 FIRST (for inspiration and recognition of science and technology)
3 Robotics, including FIRST Lego League - Discover, Explore, and
4 Challenge, FIRST Tech challenge, and FIRST Robotics competition,
5 LTU Robofest, MATE (Marine Advanced Technical Education), REC
6 (Robotics Education Competition) Foundation, Square One Education
7 Network, VEX, and other providers approved by the department. All
8 approved providers shall make all programs available to students in
9 this state regardless of geographical location. Programs funded
10 under this section are intended to increase the number of pupils
11 demonstrating proficiency in science and mathematics on the state
12 assessments and to increase the number of pupils who are college-
13 and career-ready upon high school graduation. Notwithstanding
14 section 17b, the department shall make grant payments to districts,
15 nonpublic schools, and intermediate districts under this section on
16 a schedule determined by the department. The department shall set
17 maximum grant awards for each different level of programming and
18 competition in a manner that both maximizes the number of teams
19 that will be able to receive funds and expands the geographical
20 distribution of teams. Districts and intermediate districts that
21 receive funds under this section must provide relevant student
22 participation information, as determined by the department, to
23 program and competition providers described in this section. For a
24 district or intermediate district to count a program competition
25 provider for purposes of payments under this section, the program
26 and competition providers must agree to aggregate data received by
27 districts and intermediate districts and provide this information
28 to the department in a form and manner determined by the
29 department.

1 (2) The department shall do all of the following for purposes
2 of this section:

3 (a) Both of the following by not later than 60 days after the
4 state school aid appropriations bill for the current fiscal year is
5 enacted into law or October 1 of the current fiscal year, whichever
6 is later:

7 (i) Open applications for funding under this section to all
8 districts, nonpublic schools, and intermediate districts.

9 (ii) Publish a list of approved programs and vendors for
10 purposes of this section in a manner that is accessible to all
11 applicants. To obtain approval under this subparagraph, a program
12 or vendor must submit to the department registration information,
13 including any fees; pledge that it will post this information on
14 its website; and, by not later than January 1 of the current fiscal
15 year, submit this information to the department for publication on
16 the department's website.

17 (b) By not later than 60 days after applications are opened as
18 described in subdivision (a), close applications under this
19 section.

20 (c) By not later than 60 days after applications are closed as
21 described in subdivision (b), make all determinations concerning
22 funding under this section.

23 (d) By not later than July 1 of the current fiscal year,
24 publish a document listing the requirements for becoming an
25 approved program or vendor under subdivision (a).

26 (3) Except as otherwise provided under this subsection, if
27 funding under this section is insufficient to fulfill all funding
28 requests by qualified applicants under this section, the department
29 shall prorate the total funding allocated under this section

1 equally among all qualified applicants. However, for funding under
2 this section toward grants under subsection (5)(b), in its
3 proration under this subsection, the department shall ensure that
4 each district is paid in an amount equal to the percentage the
5 department would have paid the district in grant funding under
6 subsection (5)(b), but for proration under this subsection, with no
7 district receiving a grant under subsection (5)(b) in an amount
8 that is greater than the district's total accrued costs under
9 subsection (5)(b).

10 (4) A district, nonpublic school, or intermediate district
11 applying for a grant under this section must submit an application
12 in a form and manner prescribed by the department. To be eligible
13 for a grant, a district, nonpublic school, or intermediate district
14 must demonstrate in its application that the district, nonpublic
15 school, or intermediate district has established a partnership for
16 the purposes of the robotics program with at least 1 sponsor,
17 business entity, higher education institution, technical school, or
18 individual, must submit a budget, and must provide a local in-kind
19 or cash match from other private or local funds of at least 25% of
20 the cost of the robotics program award.

21 (5) The department shall distribute the grant funding under
22 this section for the following purposes:

23 (a) Grants to districts, nonpublic schools, or intermediate
24 districts to pay for stipends not to exceed \$1,500.00 per building
25 for coaching.

26 (b) Grants to districts, nonpublic schools, or intermediate
27 districts for event registrations, materials, travel costs, and
28 other expenses associated with the preparation for and attendance
29 at robotics events and competitions.

1 (c) Grants to districts, nonpublic schools, or intermediate
2 districts for awards to teams that advance to the next levels of
3 competition as determined by the department. The department shall
4 determine an equal amount per team for those teams that advance.

5 (6) A nonpublic school that receives a grant under this
6 section may use the funds for either robotics or Science Olympiad
7 programs.

8 (7) To be eligible to receive funds under this section, a
9 nonpublic school must be a nonpublic school registered with the
10 department and must meet all applicable state reporting
11 requirements for nonpublic schools.

12 (8) To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a
13 district, nonpublic school, or intermediate district must do all of
14 the following:

15 (a) If the district, nonpublic school, or intermediate
16 district is requesting funding for more than 1 team for a building,
17 meet the minimum requirements for team size as determined by the
18 approved program provider.

19 (b) Participate in at least the minimum number of competitions
20 as determined by the approved program provider.

21 (c) Participate in at least 1 in-person competition.

22 (9) For purposes of this section, an approved program or
23 vendor under this section that provides a program under this
24 section shall not work with the department to set prices or
25 policies for the program.

26 (10) As used in this section, "current fiscal year" means the
27 fiscal year for which an allocation is made under this section.

28 Enacting section 1. In accordance with section 30 of article
29 IX of the state constitution of 1963, total state spending on

1 school aid under article I of the state school aid act of 1979,
2 1979 PA 94, MCL 388.1601 to 388.1772, as amended by 2024 PA 120 and
3 this amendatory act, from state sources for fiscal year 2024-2025
4 is estimated at \$18,676,231,900.00 and state appropriations for
5 school aid to be paid to local units of government for fiscal year
6 2024-2025 are estimated at \$17,216,693,900.00.

7 Enacting section 2. This amendatory act takes effect October
8 1, 2024.