



## GENESEE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Legislative Update

November 2023

Legislation we are currently following:

- **[SB 463](#)**: This bill would require a student to complete and submit a FAFSA application to the United States Department of Education in order to receive a high school diploma. **This would put the final determination of graduation out of a student's hands, as the FAFSA application requires information and participation from the student's parent or guardian. (Referred to House Committee on Education on November 2, 2023)**
- **[HB 4752](#)**: **HB 47 52 is now PA 147 of 2023**. This PA now reduces the "sit-out" period to 6 months for retired school employees, however after a bona-fide separation of at least 30 days, it also allows a retired employee to return to work without forgoing their retirement benefits if their compensation does not exceed \$15,100 per calendar year. **(Signed by the Governor on October 10, 2023)**
- **[SB 395](#)**: This bill would allow bargaining over specific topics of a teacher and or administrative performance evaluation. Specifically, this bill would repeal such components like merit pay, parent notification of a minimally effective teacher, student growth (change to 20%), and it would change evaluation ratings to ***effective, developing, and needing support***. **(SB 396 amends the teachers' tenure act, which describes the probation, tenure, and discharge of certified teachers. It modifies the definition of "demote" and updates provisions related to teachers' probationary periods and evaluations in accordance with SB 395. SB 395 is expected to be signed by the Governor soon)**
- **[SB 280](#)**: This bill would require a parent or guardian of a child who is entering kindergarten, or first grade have a dental oral assessment prior to beginning kindergarten or first grade. This bill would repeal PA 261 which allows a dental oral assessment to take place within six months of a school year. **(This bill moves on to the Governor for consideration)**
- **[HB 4341](#)**: The Senate corrected and passed [House Bill 4341](#) (Assigned PA 154 of 2023) to create the Clean Drinking Water Access Act. **The act would require each school to develop a drinking water safety plan and make the plan available to the state government.** All out-of-date drinking fountains will need to be turned off and hydration

stations and other water filters will need to be placed in schools by the end of the 2025-2026 school year.

The bill also creates the clean drinking water fund in the Department of Treasury, and previous budgets have appropriated money for this purpose. However, it also states that schools will not be held to this new law unless the Legislature makes an appropriation.

The House concurred with the Senate changes and sent it to the Governor for her consideration.

- [SB 169](#): This bill requires a public employer to share the personal information of a new employee including personal email, address, phone, wages, and other information with the union bargaining unit. ***(This bill was ordered enrolled on November 9, 2023, and will move on to the Governor for consideration)***
- [HB 5021](#): This bill would amend the Public-School Employees Retirement Act to set the default retirement plan to Tire 1, the pension hybrid plan. A new hire to a school district is required to choose a retirement plan within 75 days of their hire date. Currently, if the teacher has not selected a plan within that window, they default to a 401k, or the Tier 2 elective. ***(This bill was ordered enrolled on November 8, 2023, and will move on to the Governor for consideration)***
- [SB 174](#): This bill revised budget language from when it was originally passed in June. The bill added intermediate school districts to the pupil transportation funding categorical. ***(This bill was ordered enrolled on November 7, 2023, and will move on to the Governor for consideration)***
- [HB 4292](#): This bill included \$114.1 million in School Aid Fund funding for emergency loan debt relieve for six school districts which include Pontiac School District, Benton Harbor Area Schools, Ypsilanti community Schools, Muskegon Heights School District, Inkster Public Schools, and Willow Run Community Schools. These funds will allow them to pay off their outstanding loan balances and allow the millage revenues to be redirected to the classroom. ***(This bill was ordered enrolled on November 2, 2023, and will move on to the Governor for consideration)***
- [HB 4671](#): This bill would amend section 1284a of the Revised School Code to remove references to a requirement that schools not begin their school year prior to Labor Day unless they apply for and receive a waiver from the state superintendent, or they were operating on a year-round schedule or operating an international baccalaureate program as of September 29, 2005. ***(This bill was referred to a third reading on September 9, 2023)***
- [HB 4734-4737](#): This bill package would require schools to obtain and opioid antagonist in each school. The bill determines that a school must have an employee trained to

administer an opioid antagonist. *HB 4736* underscores the fact that the training specific to the administration of an opioid antagonist will be conducted by a district's local health department. (Tie bar with *HB 4735*, *HB 4735*, *HB 4736*, and *HB 4737*. ***(Referred to the Committee on Education on June 13, 2023)***)

- **SB 23**: The Senate Appropriations Committee approved *SB 23*, which makes changes to work-based learning experiences and how pupils are counted. Under current law, a student can be counted to .5 FTE for work-based learning purposes, this bill would increase that to .75 FTE. The supporters of the bill stated that this would open more work-based learning opportunities for students and create more meaningful experiences especially for students interested in a skilled trade. The bill would appropriate \$2 million from the School Aid Fund for fiscal year 2023-24 for competitive grants to districts for extra costs incurred regarding pupils who participated in work-based learning programs ***(Referred to committee of the whole on October 19, 2023.)***
- **Legislature Adjourns for the Year**: Thursday November 9, 2023, was the last day of session in both the House and Senate for 2023. Both chambers passed resolutions establishing November 14, 2023, as Sine Die. No further work will take place this year and the 90-day clock will start for bills that were not given immediate effect will become law. One reason why the Legislature adjourned so early is that two Democrat state representatives won their mayoral elections on Tuesday, November 7, 2023. These two state representatives are expected to resign, and the House will be at a 54-54 split. Because of House rules adopted in January, the Democrats will retain control but need 55 votes to pass any legislation.

The Legislature is expected to officially return on January 10, 2023, committee meetings and budget work can start, but until special elections are held to bring the House back to 110 members, floor action may be limited. The Senate will return to business as usual.