



2025
2026

POLICY Priorities



PUPIL ACCOUNTING AND INSTRUCTIONAL TIME FLEXIBILITY

Michigan's pupil accounting rules are overly complex, inconsistently enforced, and too rigid for innovative learning models. Learning should be measured by mastery, not seat time.

- Allow multiple pathways to meet instructional time: 180 days OR 1,098 hours OR MDE-approved innovative models.
- Empower MDE to issue binding, statewide guidance to ensure consistent interpretation.
- Require MDE to pre-approve and publish alternative instructional models, including hybrid and competency-based options, to promote equitable access statewide.



TEACHER CERTIFICATION FLEXIBILITY

Michigan's certification system should provide multiple rigorous pathways for educators to earn credentials, just as students have multiple ways to demonstrate learning.

- Allow certified teachers to add endorsements by passing the appropriate MTTC without additional coursework. (HB 4151)
- Permit educators who have completed required coursework and have three years of successful teaching experience to earn certification without passing the MTTC. (SB 189)



STREAMLINED AND FLEXIBLE SCHOOL FUNDING

Meeting students' needs requires both differentiated funding and local flexibility to use it effectively. Formula-based, multi-year grants support access and enable long-term planning.

- Expand allowable uses within major differentiated funding streams.
- Shift from competitive grants to formula-based allocations where possible.
- Ensure remaining competitive grants are multi-year with simplified applications and renewals.



FLEXIBILITY IN THE MICHIGAN MERIT CURRICULUM (MMC)

Graduation requirements should focus on the knowledge and skills students need to succeed, allowing schools to personalize learning and build clear postsecondary pathways without reducing rigor.

- Eliminate course names from statute so content, not titles, drives programming. (HB 4175)
- Simplify and expand the personal curriculum process to make it easier and more effective.

STEP 1

[FALL-WINTER 2024] SET PRIORITIES

MASSP Board & members defined 2025–26 goals: funding, innovation, mandate reduction.

STEP 2

[SPRING 2025] GATHER INPUT

Collected member feedback: Regional meetings, EdCon sessions, 280 survey responses submitted.

STEP 3

[SUMMER-FALL 2025] REFINE FOCUS

Four refined policy priorities identified, gained Board approval, shared with MASSP members.

STEP 4

[FALL-WINTER 2025] LAUNCH ADVOCACY EFFORTS

Work with lawmakers & MDE; influence FY26 budget; MASSP members engage legislators.

STEP 5

[2026 & BEYOND] SUSTAIN & EXPAND

Monitor progress, update members, and expand advocacy to emerging priorities.