

Superintendent's Report

Month: July 2026

Administrator: Dedrick Martin

Update:
Late Budget

The Michigan Legislature finally approved the 2026–2027 School Aid Budget on July 3. The budget includes a modest increase in overall K–12 funding and begins a significant shift to a weighted pupil funding model.

Key Highlights:

- Foundation allowance increases by \$250 to \$10,300 per student.
- Section 81 funding increased 2.5% which applies directly to ISDs.
- New weighted funding provides additional support for English Learners and economically disadvantaged students.
- Districts may use either current-year enrollment or a three-year average count, whichever is higher.
- Continued investments in student meals, mental health and school safety, special education, early childhood programs, CTE, transportation, and teacher recruitment.
- Expanded literacy and tutoring funding, including support for literacy coaches, LETRS training, and dyslexia professional development.
- Additional funding for school infrastructure and rural districts.

Districts receiving weighted funding will be subject to new reporting and accountability requirements, and noncompliance with certain state requirements may result in a reduction of state aid. Overall, the budget modestly increases funding while directing more resources toward students with greater educational needs and introducing new compliance expectations for districts. If you are interested, here is a link to the [MASB Budget Review Video](#)

Spotlighting Effective Strategies

We are thrilled to share that our CTE program will be highlighted during MDE's Spotlighting Effective Strategies (SES) presentation at the August 11 State Board of Education meeting. As part of MDE's broader message highlighting innovative and impactful educational practices across Michigan, our program has been selected as one of the featured areas of focus.

Sarah Mansberger and I will attend as district representatives on behalf of KRESA. This recognition reflects the exceptional dedication, creativity, and commitment of our staff, whose efforts continue to strengthen and enhance Career and Technical Education opportunities for students throughout Kalamazoo County. We are honored for this acknowledgment of the collaborative work taking place across our programs to ensure students are equipped with the skills, experiences, and support needed for future success.

The Spotlighting Effective Strategies presentation showcases districts and schools that are implementing innovative approaches aligned with Michigan's Top 10 Strategic Education Plan. Being selected for this recognition provides an opportunity to share our work with the Michigan Board of Education and highlights the positive impact our programs are having on student achievement, career readiness, and workforce development. We are proud to represent KRESA and grateful for the many staff members whose ongoing efforts have made this recognition possible.