



August 22, 2025

Dear Community,

As we begin the 2025-26 school year, we want to update you on an important issue that could impact our students and schools:

- State law mandates that lawmakers approve a K-12 public school funding budget by July 1 each year.
- Having a budget in place is important, so that schools can plan and operate with certainty.
- Since the legal deadline has passed—without elected officials reaching an agreement—there is a risk of a state government shutdown, which could delay funding that schools depend on to operate.

A reason for the deadlock appears to be proposals to redirect money from the School Aid Fund – the fund voters were promised would be dedicated to K-12 education – to other priorities, including road repairs. Many believe this violates the original intent of the system voters approved to provide fair funding for public schools. If lawmakers do not pass a budget, districts will miss out on their first scheduled state aid payment in October. For our schools, that payment is a major part of the resources we rely on to:

- Maintain class sizes and student support services.
- Maintain bus operations and keep classrooms supplied.
- Fund academic programs, arts, athletics, and student activities.
- Compensate staff who work directly with students.

We cannot operate indefinitely without these resources. The solution is simple: lawmakers should approve a K-12 budget that safeguards School Aid Fund dollars for their original purpose – educating our children. **Please join us in urging our elected officials to reach a quick agreement and keep K-12 funding secure.**

Your students deserve a stable, fully funded school year.

Respectfully,

Dave Cox-Manistee ISD

Dan Mesyar - Onkama Consolidated Schools

Jacob Veith- Bear Lake Schools and Kaleva Norman Dickson Schools

Ron Stoneman-Manistee Area Public Schools

Shawn Walbecq-CASMAN Alternative Academy

Kendall Schroeder-Michigan Great Lakes Virtual Academy