

SENATE BILL No. 804

September 24, 2007, Introduced by Senators SWITALSKI, JACOBS, PAPPAGEORGE and KAHN and referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

A bill to amend 1979 PA 94, entitled
 "The state school aid act of 1979,"
 by amending section 98 (MCL 388.1698), as amended by 2006 PA 342.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 98. (1) From the state school aid fund money appropriated
 2 in section 11, there is allocated an amount not to exceed
 3 \$500,000.00 for 2006-2007 and from the general fund money
 4 appropriated in section 11, there is allocated an amount not to
 5 exceed ~~\$2,250,000.00~~ **\$1,750,000.00** for 2006-2007 to provide a grant
 6 to the Michigan virtual university for the development,
 7 implementation, and operation of the Michigan virtual high school;
 8 to provide professional development opportunities for educators;
 9 and to fund other purposes described in this section. In addition,
 10 from the federal funds appropriated in section 11, there is

1 allocated for 2006-2007 an amount estimated at \$3,250,000.00.

2 (2) The Michigan virtual high school shall have the following
3 goals:

4 (a) Significantly expand curricular offerings for high schools
5 across this state through agreements with districts or licenses
6 from other recognized providers. The Michigan virtual high school
7 shall explore options for providing rigorous civics curricula
8 online.

9 (b) Create statewide instructional models using interactive
10 multimedia tools delivered by electronic means, including, but not
11 limited to, the internet, digital broadcast, or satellite network,
12 for distributed learning at the high school level.

13 (c) Provide pupils with opportunities to develop skills and
14 competencies through on-line learning.

15 (d) Provide online test preparation resources for pupils.

16 (e) Grant high school diplomas through a dual enrollment
17 method with districts.

18 (f) Act as a broker for college level equivalent courses, as
19 defined in section 1471 of the revised school code, MCL 380.1471,
20 and dual enrollment courses from postsecondary education
21 institutions.

22 ~~From the general fund money allocated in subsection (1),~~
23 ~~an amount estimated at, but not to exceed \$500,000.00, shall be~~
24 ~~used by the Michigan virtual high school to provide online test~~
25 ~~preparation resources for all Michigan high school pupils using~~
26 ~~web-based tools that align with the Michigan merit exam~~
27 ~~requirements, including the ACT and the revised MEAP exam. These~~

1 ~~resources shall include the following:~~

2 ~~—— (a) Practice test opportunities for students.~~

3 ~~—— (b) Information on effective test taking strategies.~~

4 ~~—— (c) Diagnostic tools to identify student learning gaps.~~

5 ~~—— (d) Self-paced online instructional tutorials.~~

6 ~~—— (e) Electronic reports that provide feedback for students and~~
7 ~~school personnel.~~

8 (3) ~~(4)~~—The Michigan virtual high school course offerings
9 shall include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

10 (a) Information technology courses.

11 (b) College level equivalent courses, as defined in section
12 1471 of the revised school code, MCL 380.1471.

13 (c) Courses and dual enrollment opportunities.

14 (d) Programs and services for at-risk pupils.

15 (e) General education development test preparation courses for
16 adjudicated youth.

17 (f) Special interest courses.

18 (g) Professional development programs and services for
19 teachers.

20 (4) ~~(5)~~—From the federal funds allocated in subsection (1),
21 there is allocated for 2006-2007 an amount estimated at
22 \$2,250,000.00 from DED-OESE, title II, improving teacher quality
23 funds for a grant to the Michigan virtual university for the
24 purpose of this subsection. The state education agency shall sign a
25 memorandum of understanding with the Michigan virtual university
26 regarding the DED-OESE, title II, improving teacher quality funds
27 as provided under this subsection. The memorandum of understanding

1 under this subsection shall require that the Michigan virtual
2 university coordinate the following activities related to DED-OESE,
3 title II, improving teacher quality funds in accordance with
4 federal law:

5 (a) Develop, and assist districts in the development and use
6 of, proven, innovative strategies to deliver intensive professional
7 development programs that are both cost-effective and easily
8 accessible, such as strategies that involve delivery through the
9 use of technology, peer networks, and distance learning.

10 (b) Encourage and support the training of teachers and
11 administrators to effectively integrate technology into curricula
12 and instruction.

13 (c) Coordinate the activities of eligible partnerships that
14 include higher education institutions for the purposes of providing
15 professional development activities for teachers,
16 paraprofessionals, and principals as defined in federal law.

17 (d) Offer teachers opportunities to learn new skills and
18 strategies for developing and delivering instructional services.

19 (e) Provide online professional development opportunities for
20 educators to update and expand knowledge and skills needed to
21 support the Michigan merit curriculum core content standards and
22 credit requirements.

23 (5) ~~(6)~~—The Michigan virtual university shall offer at least
24 200 hours of online professional development for classroom teachers
25 under this section each fiscal year beginning in 2006-2007 without
26 charge to the teachers or to districts or intermediate districts. A
27 district or intermediate district may require a full-time teacher

1 to participate in at least 5 hours of online professional
2 development provided by the Michigan virtual university under
3 subsection ~~(5)~~-(4). Five hours of this professional development
4 shall be considered to be part of the 38 hours allowed to be
5 counted as hours of pupil instruction under section 101(10).

6 (6) ~~(7)~~—From the federal funds appropriated in subsection (1),
7 there is allocated for 2006-2007 an amount estimated at
8 \$1,000,000.00 from the DED-OESE, title II, educational technology
9 grant funds to support e-learning and virtual school initiatives
10 consistent with the goals contained in the United States national
11 educational technology plan issued in January 2005. Not later than
12 November 30, 2006, from the funds allocated in this subsection, the
13 department shall award a single grant of \$1,000,000.00 to a
14 consortium or partnership established by the Michigan virtual
15 university that meets the requirements of this subsection. To be
16 eligible for this funding, a consortium or partnership established
17 by the Michigan virtual university shall include at least 1
18 intermediate district and at least 1 high-need local district. All
19 of the following apply to this funding:

20 (a) An eligible consortium or partnership must demonstrate the
21 following:

22 (i) Prior success in delivering online courses and
23 instructional services to K-12 pupils throughout this state.

24 (ii) Expertise in designing, developing, and evaluating online
25 K-12 course content.

26 (iii) Experience in maintaining a statewide help desk service
27 for pupils, online teachers, and other school personnel.

1 (iv) Knowledge and experience in providing technical assistance
2 and support to K-12 schools in the area of online education.

3 (v) Experience in training and supporting K-12 educators in
4 this state to teach online courses.

5 (vi) Demonstrated technical expertise and capacity in managing
6 complex technology systems.

7 (vii) Experience promoting twenty-first century learning skills
8 through the use of online technologies.

9 (b) The Michigan virtual university, which operates the
10 Michigan virtual high school, shall perform the following tasks
11 related to this funding:

12 (i) Examine the curricular and specific course content needs of
13 middle and high school students in the areas of mathematics and
14 science.

15 (ii) Design, develop, and acquire online courses and related
16 supplemental resources aligned to state standards to create a
17 comprehensive and rigorous statewide catalog of online courses and
18 instructional services.

19 (iii) Conduct a demonstration pilot to promote new and
20 innovative online courses and instructional services.

21 (iv) Evaluate existing online teaching and learning practices
22 and develop continuous improvement strategies to enhance student
23 achievement.

24 (v) Develop, support, and maintain the technology
25 infrastructure and related software required to deliver online
26 courses and instructional services to students statewide.

27 (7) ~~(8)~~—From the state school aid fund allocation in

1 subsection (1), an amount not to exceed \$500,000.00 for 2006-2007
2 shall be awarded as a single grant to an intermediate district
3 working in partnership with the Michigan virtual high school for a
4 statewide license for "my dream explorer", a career exploration and
5 planning tool, to be made available to all pupils at no cost.

6 (8) ~~(9)~~—If a home-schooled or nonpublic school student is a
7 resident of a district that subscribes to services provided by the
8 Michigan virtual high school, the student may use the services
9 provided by the Michigan virtual high school to the district
10 without charge to the student beyond what is charged to a district
11 pupil using the same services.

12 (9) ~~(10)~~—All activities funded under this section relating to
13 science shall include the use of the scientific method to
14 critically evaluate scientific theories and the use of relevant
15 scientific data to assess the validity of those theories.

16 (10) ~~(11)~~—As used in this section:

17 (a) "DED-OESE" means the United States department of education
18 office of elementary and secondary education.

19 (b) "High-need local district" means a local educational
20 agency as defined in the enhancing education through technology
21 part of the no child left behind act of 2001, Public Law 107-110.

22 (c) "State education agency" means the department.