Byron Area Schools

Corunna Public Schools

Durand Area Schools

Laingsburg Community Schools

Morrice Area Schools

New Lothrop Area Public Schools

Owosso Public Schools

Perry Public Schools

Shiawassee RESD

September 9, 2025

Dear Families and Staff,

As we begin the 2025-26 school year, we would like to update you on a critical issue in Lansing that may impact Shiawassee County students, staff, and programs in the coming months.

State law requires lawmakers to approve a K-12 school funding budget by July 1 each year, allowing districts like ours to plan and operate with certainty. That deadline has passed, and no agreement has been reached. Without a budget, there's a risk of a state government shutdown on September 30, which could delay funding that schools depend on to operate.

At the heart of the deadlock is a proposal to redirect dollars 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 that voters approved in 1994, which was to provide fair, statewide funding for public schools.

If the Michigan Legislature does not pass a budget, districts will miss their first scheduled state aid payment on October 20, 2025. For all schools, that payment is a major part of the resources we rely on to:

- Compensate teachers and staff who work directly with students.
- Maintain class sizes and student support services.
- Maintain bus operations, fund academic programs, arts, athletics, and student activities.
- Support staff such as counselors, social workers, and SROs who help to keep our students safe and secure.

We cannot operate indefinitely without these resources. The solution is simple: lawmakers should approve a K-12 budget ASAP that safeguards School Aid Fund dollars for their original purpose – educating Michigan's children.

Please join me in urging our elected officials to reach a swift agreement and ensure the security of K-12 funding. You can contact your state lawmakers at https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Legislature/Legislators and explain why timely, protected school funding is important to you and your family.

Our students and families deserve a stable, fully funded school year. Together, we can ensure their learning proceeds uninterrupted.

Sincerely,

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Durand Area Schools

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