



**DATE:** June 11, 2010  
**CONTACT:** Lynne Meyer  
248. 489. 3349

**FOR RELEASE:** Immediate

## Legislative Update - School Aid Fund

*Farmington, Michigan---*On behalf of Farmington Board of Education, I am writing to express our outrage at the news that Governor Granholm and House Speaker Dillon have joined with Senate Majority Leader Bishop in calling for the use of School Aid dollars to offset funds in the state's general fund to boost revenue to community colleges, higher education and other budget areas. This despite the fact that, over the last 16 years, \$600 million of General Fund aid to the School Aid Fund has been taken away from schools. This would be the first time ever that dedicated school aid revenue would be directed to support the post secondary system. Anyone who values Michigan's future cannot allow this to happen!

Despite the rhetoric coming out of Lansing, Michigan's schools do not have any surplus revenue. The past few years have been devastating for all schools, including Farmington, and have resulted in severe budget reductions, record layoffs and school closures. In the past year, school funding was cut \$165 per pupil. In addition, Farmington Public Schools lost an additional \$191 more per pupil when the governor vetoed Section 20J of the School Aid Act. Thus, the flat funding in the School Aid Fund would continue that \$356 per pupil loss for next year as well. The "extra revenue" projected as part of the most recent fiscal estimate is not even enough to restore that cut, let alone cover the increased \$150 per pupil cost of the state retirement rate.

The budget shortfall in Farmington has already resulted in five facility closures, layoff of almost 160 valued staff, program reductions and increased fees for athletics and other student activities.

I urge you to oppose any action to raid the School Aid Fund. Let the Governor, Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop and House Speaker Andy Dillon know that we expect them to pro-

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tect School Aid dollars and use them for their intended purpose – for K-12 students of Michigan.

Susan H. Zurvalec  
Superintendent

Legislative Contacts:

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