



Michigan Association  
of Community and  
Adult Education

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## State School Aid Section 107 Michigan's Adults Education Funding

In the State of Michigan, the educational and training needs of adults and out of school youth are numerous and complex. As Adult Education providers, we understand change may be needed to better address the current and future needs of adult and alternative students. Revisions to the School State Aid Act Section 107 should adequately reflect these needs. We support the change for increasing access to educational programs throughout the State of Michigan, especially to our adult and alternative youth. Our concern is that with limited funding, supported by flawed legislative language, programs will lack performance that the legislators would expect.

As Adult Education changes to meet the future needs of our State, we need to have legislation that fosters this process. As the State's largest advocate for adult education, MACAE members would like to encourage our legislators to direct the State Office for Adult Education to solicit involvement from the field and MDE to collaborate in drafting the proposed changes to Section 107 legislation. The primary purpose of Section 107 categorical funding is to help adults who did not complete high school to have education that will make them career and college ready.

MACAE asks our legislators to direct the Michigan Workforce Agency, Office for Adult Education, to do the following as changes are made to School State Aid Legislation:

- Solicit direct conversation and involvement of MDE and adult education practitioners seeking the expertise that they have to offer in participant and pupil programs as this categorical funding involves both.
- Direct the groups to collaborate in drafting proposed changes to Section 107 legislation. The primary purpose of Section 107 categorical funding is to help adults who did not complete high school to continue their education and be college and career ready.
- Work together to identify Workforce Investment Opportunity Act (WIOA) and Section 107 language similarities (areas to align) and differences (areas that should remain separate) in WIOA and Section 107 legislation.

**Rationale:** The Office of Adult Education has submitted legislative changes to Section 107 to align it with the new WIOA legislation. MACAE strongly recommends both groups have an opportunity to dialog and respond appropriately to proposed new language, prior to submission and adoption. This practice assures essential adult education components are not lost in the translation. Most of the 2016-17 proposed language has merit; however, further clarification from both parties is needed on proposed language changes before endorsement. Section 107 funding is designed to make education available to adults and to:

**MACAE Mission:** To provide a cohesive framework for community education through collaboration and guidance at the local, state and federal level.

### Serving & Advocating for Community Educators

- Adult Education, Literacy, & English as a Second Language (ESL)
- Alternative Education
- Early Childhood Development & Pre-School
- Enrichment, Recreation, & Before/After School

- Provide a rigorous and relevant education to reflect the same academic level as a High School Graduate
- To increase the reading and math level of low level learners
- Offer educational assistance to aid in career advancement to meet employer's needs
- Increase the educational outcomes of children through advancing the educational level of the parent
- Raise the education level of English Language Learners to increase employability and citizenship

**Rationale:** Adult Education is an educational practice in which adults engage in systemic and sustained learning to gain knowledge and skills. Section 107 Adult Education Funds are State funds unlike WIOA federal funds. WIOA federal funds are designed to 'Supplement' Adult Education Learning. Wide-spread alignment of Section 107 and WIOA funds, eligibility and performance criteria dilutes the ultimate purpose and credibility of both programs.

MACAE agrees with current legislation that supports Section 107 funds allocated to an LEA and/or ISD and are restricted for adult education programs as authorized. Adult education funds shall not be co-mingled with any other funds. Other funds are available in the State for students under the age of 20. Career training funds are included in the State Budget. Section 107 funds are the only funds that are designated in the School Aid Act to help adults get the education they are seeking.

MACAE proposes an increase of \$5 million in Section 107 Adult Education Funding to support the legislative language change to increase services to adults functioning under 12<sup>th</sup> grade and out of school youth.

**Rationale:** The new language (aligning Section 107 criteria with WIOA) provides for additional student eligibility in Section 107 programs. Adult Education practitioners would like to serve more students, however, funding does not support increased enrollment. In 2014, Adult Education Programs in Michigan served 30,000 adults and receiving funding for only 22,000. Last year's respectful increase of \$4.5 million assisted in serving more adults, however, the new language will open the door to even more adults without funding to support their education.

**Improving our Education of the Adult Population helps:**

Make Michigan a Top 10 Education State by Shrinking the Learning Gap

Improve Third Grade Reading

Improves Family Literacy

Increases in Employability Skill

Increases in Employability and Citizenship of English as a Second Language Adult Learners