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MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**PHIL POTVIN**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Representative Al Pscholka, Chair  
House Appropriations Committee

**FROM:** Representative Phil Potvin, Chair  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education

**SUBJECT:** Auditor General Recommendation

**DATE:** October 1, 2015

On Wednesday, September 30, 2015, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education met pursuant to House Rule 38 to address the *Performance Audit of the Office of Field Services, Report Number 313-0300-14* and the *Performance Audit of the Office of Special Education, Report Number 313-0180-14*.

At that time, testimony was given by the Auditor General's office and the Department of Education. The auditor gave an overview of the audits, findings, and their recommendations. For the audit of the Office of Field Services, the conclusion was that the Office of Field Services' (OFS) efforts to ensure that local education agencies used OFS funds in accordance with the approved grant applications were moderately effective. For the audit of the Office of Special Education (OSE), the audit concluded that the OSE's efforts to evaluate the special education services provided by the school districts were moderately effective.

Representatives from the Department of Education agreed overall with the findings of the Auditor General for both audits. The Department described ways in which they have responded to the findings of the audits and implemented procedures and policies so to better administer the programs.

Both the Office of Auditor General and the Department of Education answered questions from members.

After hearing the informative presentations, the subcommittee unanimously adopted the following recommendation:

“The Subcommittee agrees with the Auditor General’s office that the Department of Education, Office of Field Services and the Office of Special Education, are doing a satisfactory job ensuring that the local educational agencies are using program funds in accordance with their approved grant, and evaluating the special education services provided by school districts.

The Subcommittee appreciates the actions taken by the Department to address the findings of the audits. It is recommended that the Department of Education continue to address the findings raised by the Auditor General’s office as part of the Department’s ongoing efforts to improve services and support to local educational agencies.

In addition, the Subcommittee suggests that these findings be revisited when the Auditor General’s office conducts their next audit of the programs to ensure the actions taken by the Department in response to the audits are effective and fully address the findings of the audits.

It is recommended by the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education to the Standing Committee on Appropriations and the Standing Committee on Oversight and Ethics that no legislative action is needed at this time. However, if it becomes evident that the Department is not progressing in a manner satisfactory to the Subcommittee, legislative action may be necessary.”

The subcommittee has faithfully preformed its duties as required under House Rule 38 and submit this recommendation to the House Appropriations Committee and request this recommendation be forwarded to the House Oversight and Ethics Committee.

Cc: Representative Ed McBroom, Chair- House Oversight and Ethics Committee