August 27, 2025

Dear Families and Staff,

As we begin the 2025–26 school year, we want to share an important update on behalf of the Sanilac ISD and all 7 public school districts in Sanilac County that could directly affect our students, staff, and programs.

Budget Deadline Missed
By law, the state must approve a K–12 school funding budget by **July 1** each year so districts like ours can plan with certainty. This year, that deadline has passed with no agreement in place. If lawmakers do not act, a **state government shutdown on September 30** could delay the funding schools depend on to operate.

Why This Matters
- In a recent survey, **89% of voters** supported requiring lawmakers to pass a budget before the school year begins.
- The current deadlock involves a proposal to divert dollars from the **School Aid Fund** — money that voters were promised in 1994 would be dedicated to K–12 education — to other priorities such as road repairs.
- According to the same survey, **85.7% of voters oppose** using school aid funds for fixing roads.

Current Impact to Districts
According to a survey released by Michigan School Business Officials, one in 10 Michigan school districts has made classroom personnel cuts ahead of this academic year due to the budget uncertainty. The survey found that:
- 11% of districts have had classroom personnel layoffs
- 15% had non-classroom personnel layoffs
- 42% cut staff through attrition
- 27% made non-staff spending cuts
- Districts also reported pushing back building maintenance, increasing workloads for staff, and increasing class sizes.

Future Impact on Districts
If a budget is not passed, we will miss our **first scheduled state aid payment on October 20, 2025**. That payment is critical for:
- Compensating teachers and staff who work directly with students
- Maintaining class sizes and student support services
- Operating buses and supplying classrooms
- Funding academic programs, arts, athletics, and activities

Our schools cannot operate indefinitely without these resources, or the confidence that they will be available.

What Needs to Happen
The solution is clear: lawmakers must approve a K–12 budget that protects the School Aid Fund for its original purpose — **educating Michigan's children**.

How You Can Help
Please join us in urging our elected officials to act quickly. You can contact your state lawmakers with the contact information below, and share with them why timely, protected school funding matters to you.

Our students deserve a stable, fully funded school year. Together, we can ensure their learning continues without interruption.

Sincerely,

Katie VanConant, Superintendent, Sanilac Intermediate School District
Neil Kohler, Superintendent, Brown City Community Schools
Doug Muxlow, Superintendent, Carsonville- Port Sanilac Schools
Colette Moody, Superintendent, Croswell- Lexington Schools
Matt Connelly, Superintendent, Deckerville Community Schools
James Marshall, Superintendent, Marlette Community Schools
Bill Kerr, Superintendent, Peck Community Schools
Kurt Dennis, Superintendent, Sandusky Community Schools

Legislative Contacts

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