



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 26, 2021

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Kyle L. Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent
Finance and Operations KG

SUBJECT: Section 31o Funding - School Psychologists, Social Workers,
Counselors, and Nurses

The state legislature approved and Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed into law [Public Act 48](#) of 2021, the Fiscal Year 2022 state school aid budget. Section 31o ([MCL 388.1631o](#)) allocates \$240 million in funding to increase the number of school psychologists, school social workers, school counselors, and school nurses serving students in Michigan. These funds support the third goal of Michigan's Top 10 Strategic Education Plan to improve the health, safety, and wellness of all learners.

To be eligible for section 31o funding, districts must hire additional school psychologists, school social workers, school counselors, or school nurses by March 1, 2022, and maintain support for the staff in an ongoing manner. Additionally, section 31o requires eligible districts to include assurances that it "will fully annually fund all staff that are supported with funding under this section in an ongoing manner after the third year it receives funding under this section."

Section 31o requires the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) to award funds to districts with the greatest need for school psychologists, school social workers, school counselors, or school nurses. MDE will consider physical and mental health services available at the district and how close an applicant district is to meeting staff-to-student ratios specified in the law.

Once hiring has occurred, MDE will make payments to districts in the following manner:

Year 1: Eligible districts will receive up to 100 percent of the annual cost of newly hired school psychologists, school social workers, school counselors, or school nurses.

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Year 2: Eligible districts will receive up to 66 percent of the annual cost of school psychologists, school social workers, school counselors, or school nurses.

Year 3: Eligible districts will receive up to 33 percent of the annual cost of school psychologists, school social workers, school counselors, or school nurses.

Section 31o requires MDE to prorate payments on an equal percentage basis if the amount requested by districts is greater than the amount appropriated in this section.

The application is now open, and all districts are eligible to apply. To be eligible for Section 31o funding, districts must complete the application at [Michigan Department of Education 2022 Section 31o Application \(state.mi.us\)](https://www.michigan.gov/education/2022/08/26/section-31o-application).

For questions regarding the Section 31o application, contact Mike Leathead at leatheadm@michigan.gov or Diane Golzynski at golzynskid@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors