



Dearborn PTA Council Legislative Advocacy Alert

MAY 18, 2011

Advocate Fair Funding for Dearborn Schools Phone Script for Conference Committee Phone Calls Call Window: May 19-25, 2011

In their recently passed version of the School Aid Budget, the Michigan House of Representatives reinstated \$4.9 million of funding for economically disadvantaged students enrolled in Dearborn Public Schools (category 31a funds). Unfortunately, these cuts are still part of both the Senate's version of the School Aid Budget and Governor Snyder's budget plan. Beginning this week, legislators from both the House and Senate will gather in Conference Committee to work out differences between the two versions of the budget and to draft a final bill that will be voted on by both bodies and presented to the Governor for signature.

Following the success of the many phone calls, letters, and emails sent from Dearborn taxpayers to the members of the House Appropriations Committee earlier this spring, contacts that we believe had an impact on getting 31a funds reinstated in the House version of the budget, the Dearborn PTA Council is asking all concerned citizens to call members of the Conference Committee to urge them to reinstate Dearborn's 31a funding in the state budget.

A suggested script for phone calls is below. Names and contact information for the senators we are contacting are listed on page two.

When you call, please remember to be respectful and polite. Ask to speak to the senator you are calling and if their staff tells you the senator is unavailable, ask to leave a message. Staff members will be happy to take your message. After you have made your call, please send a very short email to Dearborn PTA Legislative Chair Norm Kaleto (NEkaleto@hotmail.com) so that our council legislative committee can keep track of the impact we are having.

Script

Hello, my name is _____ and I am a concerned parent/taxpayer in Dearborn.

I am calling about proposed cuts to funding for economically disadvantaged students enrolled in Dearborn Public Schools. I am appreciative that the House's version of the School Aid Budget has reinstated these funds and I'd like to urge Senator _____ to make sure these funds are part of the final version of the budget.

Dearborn has a large at-risk population, but it still manages to graduate poor students at a better rate than many districts. Doing that takes resources and Dearborn has a track record of spending every penny we receive efficiently in the classroom, on student instruction.

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If the conversation is going well, or if you are asked for more information, you might mention that:

- 78% of Dearborn's economically disadvantaged students graduate on-time vs. 60% statewide. That is more than 100 graduates each year.
- 78% of every dollar goes to instruction vs. 76% statewide. That is \$3.8 Million more dollars in the classroom.
- DPS high school students earned over 8300 college credits in AP and dual enrolment last year. That is about 6 credits for each graduate.

Close your call with the following:

A district with our outstanding track record of efficiency and effectiveness should not be forced to make such an unfair portion of the sacrifices to fix our state's budget. I urge Senator _____ to restore Dearborn's categorical funding that supports at-risk students.

Thank you for your time.

Here's the contact info you'll need:

Senator Howard Walker (Republican)

(517) 373-2413

SenHWalker@senate.michigan.gov

Senator Roger Kahn (Republican)

(517) 373-1760

TOLL FREE 1-866-305-2132

senkahn@senate.michigan.gov

Senator Hoon-Yung Hopgood (Democrat)

(517) 373-7800

senhhopgood@senate.michigan.gov

Thank you for all you do on behalf of our students.

Dearborn PTA Council
<http://ptsa.dearbornschools.org/>