

House vote crucial to local schools

BY WAYNE PEAL
STAFF WRITER

Suburban school districts are holding their breath in anticipation of Tuesday's state House vote on school aid.

Many Oakland County districts could lose millions of dollars if the House limits per-student aid, state Social Security contributions, tax-base sharing credits and alters the formula for adult education grants.

All three measures were contained in a bill approved narrowly Thursday by the state Senate.

"We are urging residents to contact their state legislators and the governor's office to oppose the

EDUCATION

school aid bill," said Susie Safford, co-chair of the Birmingham school district's Quality Education for the 21st Century committee.

"It's an attempt to redistribute money without addressing adequate funding and it does not address the equity problem," Safford said.

"Everybody loses," said State Sen. Michael Bouchard, R-Birmingham. "My out-of-formula districts are losers and my in-formula districts don't gain all that much."

The bill's approval stunned many area school districts.

Boblo tickets for blood donors

For people who need blood, life can be a roller coaster ride.

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To help offset a blood shortage over the Fourth of July weekend, Boblo Island, WJOL-FM 97 and the Southeastern Michigan Blood Services Region of the American Red Cross will team up Friday, July 3, for "The Drive with a Ride."

The first 500 participants in the drive will receive a pair of complimentary tickets to Boblo Island, good for Monday through Friday admission.

The Bloomfield Hills Donor Center will participate.

"In mid-June a blood shortage is manageable unless you are facing a three-day holiday weekend," said Dr. A. William Shafer, Red Cross spokesman. "We know that the supply of red cells and platelets will become dangerously low. Before people go out to play over the holiday, we hope they will play their part for their community."

Collections at Red Cross mobile units have been down about 10 percent since the end of April.

For more information, call 494-2900 or 1-800-532-4353. Donors with appointments will have first priority on tickets.

Birmingham stands to lose \$5.6 million in total state aid. Farmington's losses, pegged at \$7.6 million, would be the biggest in the county.

Losses for other area districts would be Bloomfield Hills, \$5.4 million; Troy, \$4.8 million; Southfield, \$3.9 million; Rochester, \$3.1 million; Ann Arbor, \$679,800. Figures were compiled by Oakland Schools.

Out-of-formula districts — those that receive state aid only for specific programs are considered the biggest losers. Poorer in-formula districts could see an increase in state aid, while the action is also expected to help balance the state budget.

State Sens. Bouchard, Jack Paxson, D-Farmington Hills, David Honigman, R-West Bloomfield, and Matt Dunaskis, R-Lake Orion, all voted against the bill.

Major proposed state aid changes include:

• Per-student aid — 19-20 year olds with high school diplomas would no longer be counted, cutting aid to districts with aggressive adult education programs.

• Adult education — In an additional change, certain classes — known as "slot funded" — would no longer be automatically financed. Instead, money for these programs would be placed in a new, competitive grant program with payment capped at \$25 million.

• Social security — State payments would be limited under a complex formula based on enrollments.

• Tax base sharing — Payments are suspended pending outcome of a suit involving Macomb County.

All four actions were among those contained in a joint House/Senate education committee report on school aid.

Tuesday's vote will be an all-or-nothing vote. House members must accept the report in full, there is no opportunity to change any provisions.

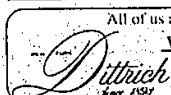
"It does not look good for us," said Rochester Schools Superintendent John Schmitt. "The Oakland County people are kind of outnumbered."

Staff member Judith Doner Berne contributed to this report.

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Be a tour guide.

Pretend that a family from another country is visiting your town, and you have been chosen to be their tour guide. Use this newspaper to plan what you will show them. Clip photos of interesting things to see, historical sites, tourist attractions, parks and recreation areas. Look through the ads for shops and restaurants to visit. Watch for entertainment possibilities—festivals, concerts and movies. Would they enjoy a garage

sale or flea market? Check the classified ads to find several garage sales that look interesting.

Paste all of your newspaper clippings into a notebook, then describe the tour you have planned to your parent guardian or another adult.

(Note to adults: This is the third in a series of activities in the Family Reading Challenge 1992. Contest. Use this page to share some educational summer fun with your child.)

FAMILY READING CHALLENGE 1992 ENTRY FORM

Yes! I have read at least:

3 newspaper articles and 3 books and discussed them with my parent(s) or guardian or another adult.

SIGNATURE OF YOUNG READER

SIGNATURE OF ADULT

1992 FAMILY READING CHALLENGE RULES:

1. You must be in grades 1 through 8 to enter.
2. Print clearly or type the information on the entry form.
3. Entries must be signed by you and an adult and postmarked by August 28th. The drawing will be held September 2, 1992. Winners will be notified by mail.
4. Void where prohibited by law or where restricted. All federal, state and local rules and regulations apply. No purchase necessary.

Questions? Call (313)953-2155

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