



Public Policy
Associates

Dan Quinn, PPA

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February 26, 2025



8th Annual

College Access Advocacy Day




MICHIGAN COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORK

MCAN's Advocacy Day

 Welcome & Introductions


 Partners


 PPA & R2p


 MCAN's Priorities

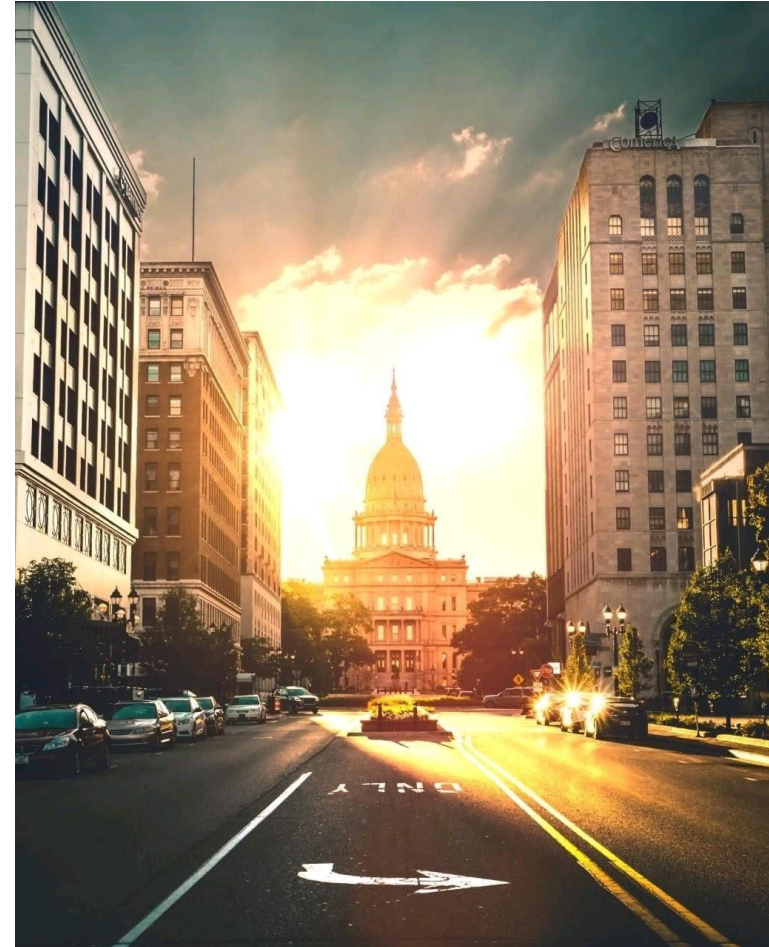
 Legislative Process

 Advocacy Tips

 Navigating Pushback

 Questions

 Closing



Welcome and Introductions



*Ryan Fewins-Bliss, Executive Director
Michigan College Access Network*

Advocacy Day Partners





RESEARCH TO PRACTICE
consulting



Dan Quinn



**Maddie
Thomas**



Rob Fowler



Kelly Stec

Smartphone App

The app will include:

- Information about your scheduled meetings.
 - *You will receive emails and push notifications for any day of schedule changes.*
- Digital versions of important documents
- Post meeting survey
- Information about the legislators

Check your inbox for an email from advocacyday@advocacyassociates.com to set up your account in the app and view your meetings



Review MCAN's Priorities (1 of 2)

- Increase to and make ongoing MCAN's state appropriation at \$5 million to best support adult learners, college completion, and workforce and employer engagement in Michigan. In FY25, MCAN was appropriated \$4 million, including \$3 million in ongoing funds and \$1 million in one-time support. We are requesting \$5 million in ongoing funds.
- Fully fund and improve Michigan Achievement Scholarship and the Community College Guarantee with a \$50M deposit into the postsecondary scholarship fund. Expand eligible time to enter the program from 15 to 24 months after high school graduation. Increase the Student Aid Index threshold to \$40,000 for students on the bachelor's degree pathway.



Review MCAN's Priorities (2 of 2)

- Continue funding Michigan Reconnect, with expansion to cover all adults over 21 and elimination of the application.
- Appropriate funds to support and incentivize high school student participation in all forms of early college credit programs – early/middle college, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and Dual Enrollment
- Eliminate the state's priority deadline for FAFSA completion. Package and distribute financial aid in an ongoing manner until the appropriated dollars are completely expended.



Review MSFAA's Priorities

- Support students as they transition from the Reconnect Program working towards a higher degree credential.
- Provide additional emergency student funding for wraparound educational costs, including more funding for the Barrier Removal Growing Institutional Capacity opportunity fund.
- Support MiLEAP with resources for successful continuation of programs, including the continuation of Reconnect.
- Provide funding to support students who fall in the gap to not qualify for current state programs.
- Streamline state financial aid programs, administrative rules, and reporting.



Review MACAC's Priorities

- Reintroduction and passage of 2021-22 HB 4810, which eliminated the requirement that MME scores be posted to high school transcripts. This requirement can hurt a student's chances of college admission.
- Passage of 2023-24 SB 0463, requiring FAFSA completion as a high school graduation requirement. Eight other states have such a requirement—each one with an opt-out clause that is highly effective—and FAFSA completion rates have soared without affecting high school graduation rates.
- Hearings on legislation, which would create a maximum ratio of 250 students per public school counselor.



Review MACRAO's Priorities

- Support students who needed to stop out due to lack of adequate child care.
- Build upon MiLEAP's work to connect potential and current students with child care while they are enrolled in school.

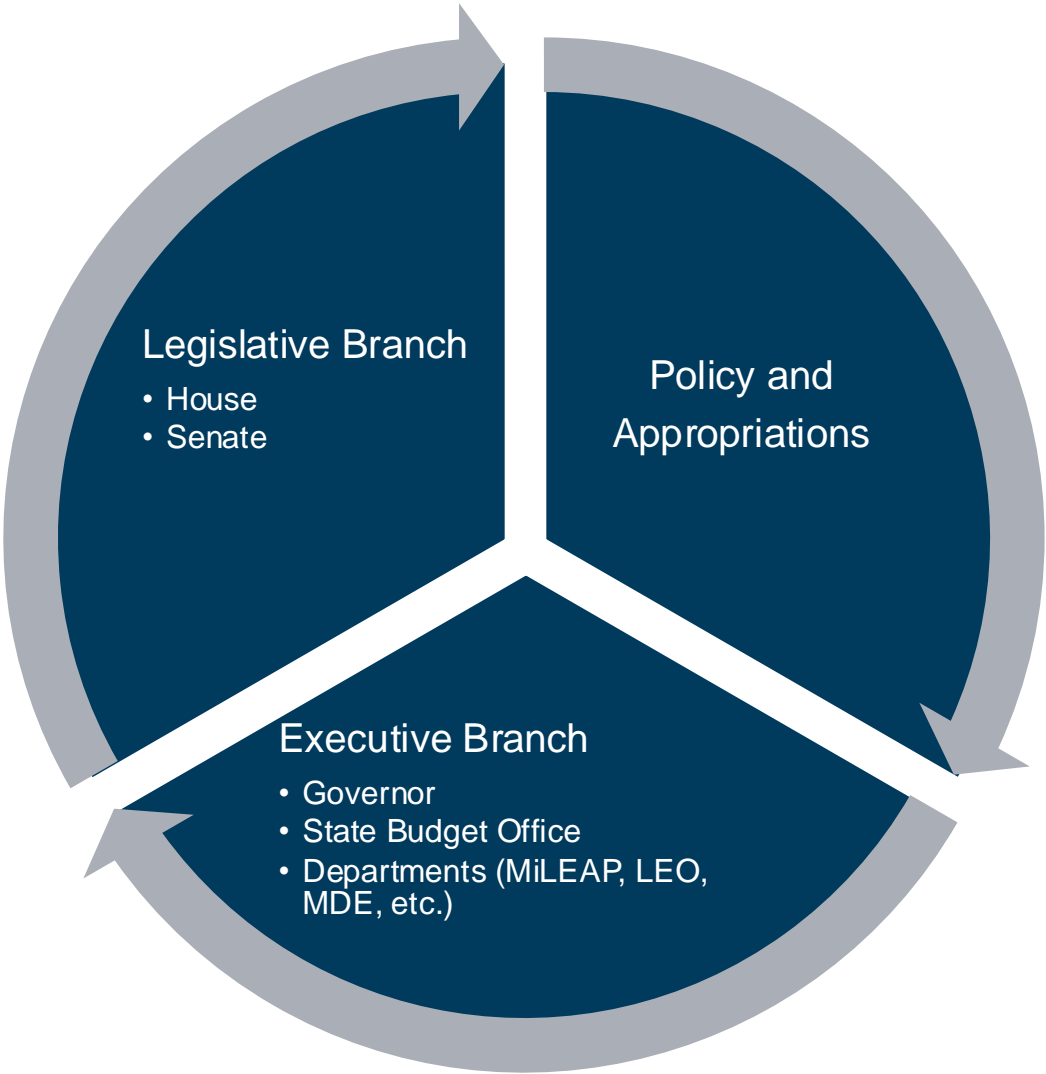


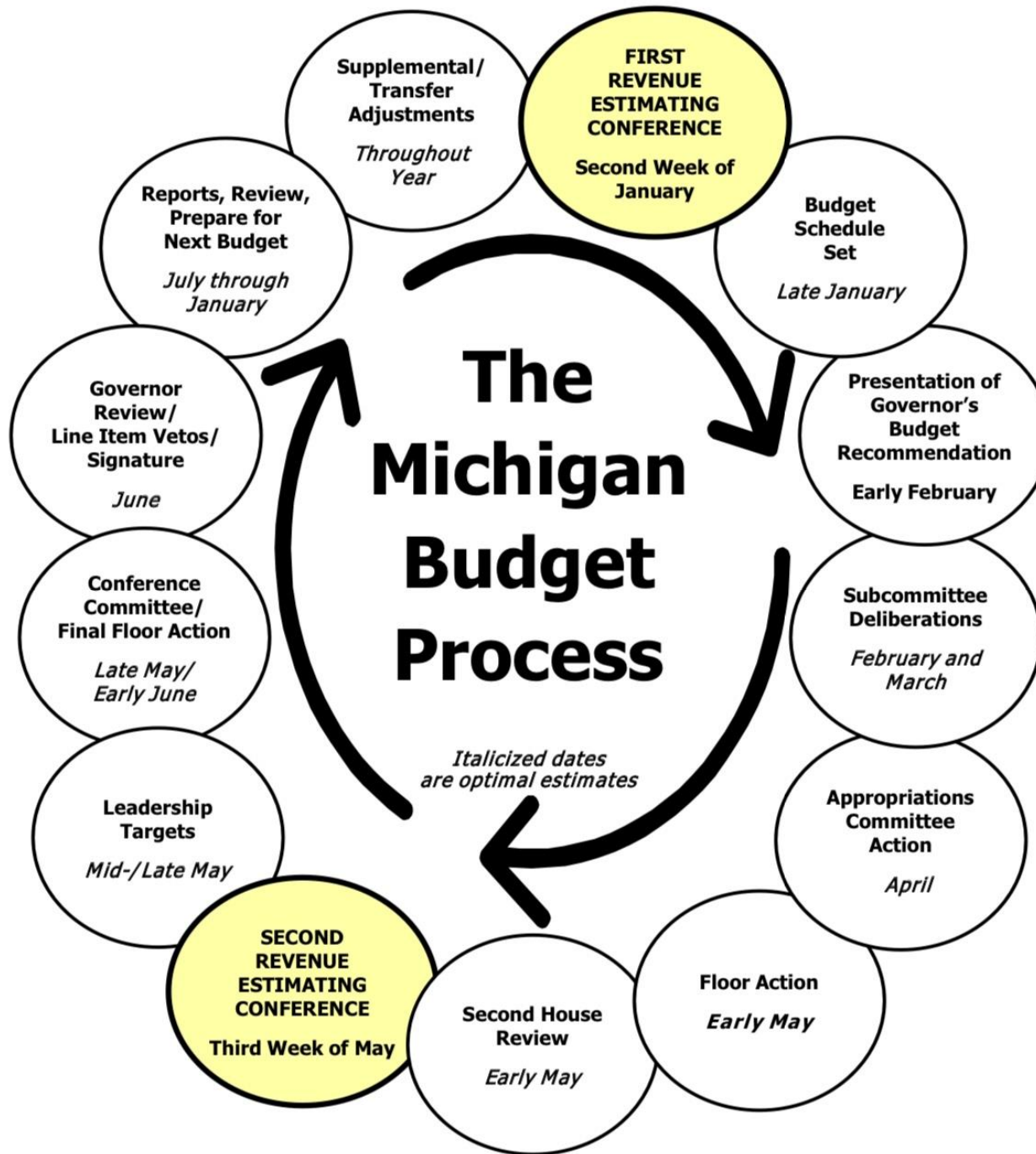


Michigan's Legislative Process

The Michigan Legislature, like the U.S. Congress at the federal level of government, is bicameral – it makes decisions which affect the daily lives of all Michiganders.

Michigan's Legislative Process





Timeline



**Consensus Revenue
Estimating Conference**
January 10, 2025



**Executive Budget
Recommendations**
February 5, 2025



State of the State
February 26, 2025



Legislative Budgets
House and Senate
March 2025



Budgets Pass
Before July 1, 2025
FY 2026
October 1, 2025



Michigan's Legislative Process

HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW

IT STARTS WITH AN IDEA



Someone says to a legislator “there ought to be a law”.
A legislator writes a proposal with the bill drafting office/agency.

BILL INTRODUCTION



The bill sponsor introduces the bill to the chamber. It is given its first reading, receives a number, and is assigned to a committee.

COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION



In committee, the sponsor requests a public hearing for the bill. The committee discusses the bill and hears comments. **Public participation is encouraged!**

The committee can:

- Pass the bill and send it to the floor (with or without amendments).
- Pass it and send it to another committee.
- Pass it and place it on the consent calendar (for noncontroversial items).
- Send it to the floor or committee with no recommendation.
- Kill it by voting it down, tabling it, ignoring it, or returning it to its author.

When passed out of committee, the bill is given its second reading and scheduled to be discussed and debated by the whole chamber.

FLOOR CONSIDERATION



The bill is placed on the calendar for a floor vote. The bill is read for the third time and is then debated and voted upon by all members.

IF PASSED, the bill is sent to the other chamber. It then goes through the same process of committee and floor votes.

IF BILLS DIFFER, one chamber can concur with the other's amendments or the bills get referred to a conference committee. The conference committee of Senators and Representatives debate until they reach a compromise on the bill's language, and then the agreed upon bill is sent to each chamber for approval, where it receives another reading and a final vote.

The new bill is then sent to the Governor.

THE GOVERNOR



If bills passed in both chambers are identical, they are sent to the Governor.

THE GOVERNOR SIGNS THE WHOLE BILL, signs with line-item vetoes, vetoes the bill or pocket vetoes the bill.

IF VETOED, the bill goes back to the legislature for reconsideration. A two-thirds vote of both the Senate and House is required to overturn a veto.

If the Governor signs the bill, or if both chambers override the Governor's veto...
THE BILL BECOMES LAW!





Advocacy Day Tips

Advocacy is defined as any action that speaks in favor of, recommends, argues for a cause, supports or defends, or pleads on behalf of others.

What is Advocacy?

1. **Sharing** policy information with your colleagues within and/or beyond the district regarding local, state, and national trends and policies can impact or improve practices and expectations for student learning.
2. **Working** with colleagues to identify and use your data to advocate for the needs of all students, breaking down barriers.
3. **Collaborating** with colleagues to identify opportunities to advocate for the rights and/or needs of your students, to secure additional resources within your building or district, and to communicate effectively.
4. **Advocating** for resources, including financial support and human and other material resources, that will allow you and your colleagues to spend more time supporting student needs.
5. **Representing** your profession in contexts outside of the classroom.



Additional Considerations & Tips



Professional Growth: Advocacy can help you develop valuable skills like communication, research, and collaboration.



Start Local: Focus on issues directly impacting your school or district (e.g., funding cuts, specific legislation).



Consider Student Needs: Prioritize issues that address student mental health, academic success, safety, and equity.



Finding Your Voice: Gather data and evidence to support your position (e.g., student data, research studies, news articles).



Partnership: Partner with other educators, parents, and community organizations. *You don't need to do this alone!*



Clear Message: Frame your message in a way that is concise, persuasive, and relevant to your audience.



Advocating



Target. Determine who the target is for your message. Is it Legislative leadership, specific committees or members, Department staff, or is it the Executive office?



Messenger. Think about who the right messenger(s) are for your message.



Storytelling. Tell your story! Share your experiences and data. Provide local examples of impact.



Ask. What is your ask? Be clear. What is it that you want them to do?



Follow-Up. Who will follow up? How? What will be shared?





Navigating Pushback

It can be uncomfortable when someone in a position of authority, or a person you respect, pushes back. Whether its questions based on genuine interest or partisan politics, preparation helps you continue advocating to make the impact you want.

I don't know!

- “That’s outside of my area of expertise.”
- “That would be something _____ would need to answer for you.”
- Offer to connect them with the best contact person and see if there’s anything you can do for them in the meantime.
- Instead of saying, “I don’t know,” say what you do know.
- For example, if you’re asked, “How much of taxpayer dollars does it take to run XYZ statewide?” instead of saying, “I don’t know,” you could say, “While I don’t have the specific figures, I can get that for you and let you know. <PAUSE> It is important to note data consistently show post-secondary education access investment have a positive return. Programs like ours help people move up career pathways, increase an individual person’s economic stability, enhance the economic stability and opportunities for a whole family, and have ripple effects all throughout the economy. Our work also helps employers grow and continue to reinvest in our region because the employers have access to the talent they need.”



Bridging...

- “That’s a common misconception...”
- “I hear that opinion a lot...”
- “Many people think/believe that to be true...”
- “Before we get off that topic, let me add...”
- “Let me put that in perspective...”
- “It's important to remember...”
- “One thing it’s critical for people to know is...”
- “While we can discuss our different opinions on the issue, I would like to discuss my concerns about xyz.”

Words to forget you know:

- ~~But...~~
- ~~However...~~
- ~~Actually...~~



Questions



Public Policy Associates



Closing