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Inside Eubka Okorie's rise to Pistons draft pick **SPORTS, 1C**

Budget deadline too late for schools

Lawmakers yet to OK spending plan

Paul Egan
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

LANSING – Michigan lawmakers are to reconvene at the Capitol in Lansing on Tuesday, June 30, one day before their self-imposed July 1 deadline to approve a state budget for the 2027 fiscal year.

But even if they pass a budget by the

deadline, that will be too late for the vast majority of Michigan's nearly 900 school districts.

That's because state law says school districts must adopt their budgets "before commencement of the budget year." And school district fiscal years typically begin July 1, three months earlier than the Oct. 1 start of the state's fiscal year.

So, that gives each school district a

June 30 deadline to pass an annual budget – one day earlier than the deadline set for the Legislature to present a budget to the governor under a 2019 state law.

"School districts have been forced this month to pass their budgets on imaginary numbers," regardless of whether the Legislature now acts by July 1, Jennifer Smith, director of legislative affairs for the Michigan Association of School Boards, told the Detroit Free Press in a June 26 interview.

It's not clear why the law, Public Act

160 of 2019, set a deadline which, even if met, would require Michigan school districts to pass their own budgets without knowing how much state funding they would receive.

The law was passed late in 2019, along with a raft of other budget-related bills that were part of a deal to end a budget impasse between Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and the GOP-controlled Legislature. House Bill 5177 passed both the state House and Senate

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MICHIGAN BRACES FOR DANGEROUS HEAT WAVE



Adrienne Roberts Detroit Free Press | USA TODAY NETWORK

It's going to be a dangerously hot week in metro Detroit and elsewhere in Michigan, with record-breaking temperatures of up to 100 degrees and heat index values soaring well above that. ● The hot and humid conditions will arrive on Monday, June 29, according to a June 28 post on X by the National Weather Service's office in White Lake. The hottest conditions are expected Tuesday, June 30, through Thursday, July 2, "with potential for highs to reach 100 degrees and heat indices in excess of 105 degrees," the post said. ● The National Weather Service said there will be little nighttime relief, with lows only dropping to the mid 70s. ● The heat index forecast (what the temperature feels like to the human body) shows temperatures reaching 108

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Eazy Colding, 4, of Redford, races in the mist from the Horace Dodge Fountain in Hart Plaza in downtown Detroit on June 27. Eazy was with his father Shawn Colding and mother Krystal. Temperatures are expected to soar up to 100 degrees this week in metro Detroit.

STEVE PEPPE/SPECIAL TO THE FREE PRESS

Dearborn seeking \$1.5B bond proposal

Plan would level six historic school buildings

Niraj Warikoo
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Dearborn Public Schools district is asking voters to approve a \$1.5 billion bond proposal to build six new school buildings and repair other aging buildings over the next 20 years.

The extensive plan would be the most expensive of its kind in recent Dearborn schools history, sparking concern from some residents concerned about high taxes and the tearing down of historic buildings built a century ago.

The Dearborn Public Schools board voted unanimously on Tuesday, June 23, to put the bond proposal to voters, which first must be approved by Wayne County officials before appearing on the November ballot. Board members defended the plan, saying it's needed to educate future students in the third-largest school district in the state, with more than 20,000 students. After the project is done, there will be 100,000 fewer square feet to maintain, all schools will have air conditioning, and there will be new STEM labs, the district said.

"We have major infrastructure problems at the schools," Dearborn Schools board member Amer Zahr told the Detroit Free Press. "We need this bond in order to build an entire school district that is ready for the next 100 years. Part of the reason we love Dearborn is that it has this long history, but some of our schools are really, really old, and they really, really need help. And if we want to keep students in Dearborn, we want to make sure that they're treated the way they need to be treated."

If approved, Dearborn residents would see a 3.14 mill increase, which

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Pete Buttigieg's children taken for 24 hours after false claim

Todd Spangler
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Former U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, who lives with his husband and children in Traverse City, said in a social media post that his two 4-year-old twins were interviewed by

authorities and he was separated from them for 24 hours because of an anonymous false allegation that he had committed "unspeakable violent crimes" in the past and they might be in danger.

Buttigieg said on a Substack posting on Friday, June 26, that after interviewing the children, the police and Child Protective Services found nothing to

substantiate the allegation, which he said the police officer considered politically motivated and potentially a prosecutable offense.

Buttigieg titled the piece, "A Terrible Thing Happened to My Family."

Michigan State Police confirmed for the Free Press that it had received the anonymous report, in response to a

question about Buttigieg's statement.

"The Michigan State Police and Child Protective Services responded and determined the report was false."

"I cannot describe the mix of rage and sadness that I feel at the idea that someone brought our children into this,"

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