

OAKLAND COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

Oakland Schools

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Berkley School District
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Birmingham Public Schools
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Bloomfield Hills School District
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Oxford Community Schools
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Mr. Kenneth Gutman
Waterford School District
Dr. Keith Wunderlich
West Bloomfield School District
Dr. Gerald Hill

February 7, 2019

State Representative Pamela Hornberger, Chair
House Education Committee
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Chairwoman Hornberger:

I am writing on behalf of the 28 local school superintendents in Oakland County regarding House Bill 4162. This bill, sponsored by Rep. Reilly and cosponsored by Oakland County Representatives Brenda Carter, Kathy Crawford, and Padma Kuppa, was assigned to your committee and I am writing in support of the legislation and to ask for you to hold a hearing and move the legislation.

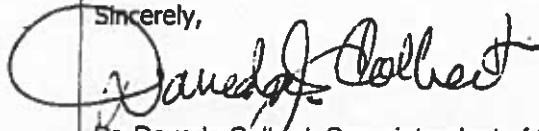
House Bill 4162 would eliminate the WorkKeys portion of the high school Michigan Merit Exam. There are several reasons to support such an action. First, it is imperative to reduce the assessment burden placed upon students and schools. The current Michigan Merit Exam covers a breadth of subjects and takes at least 8.5 hours to administer. Eliminating the WorkKeys portion would reduce testing time to 6 hours, provide more time for instruction and appropriately reduce breadth.

Second, Oakland County businesses with which we work tell us that fewer and fewer employers are using the results from the WorkKeys when considering job applicants. For businesses that do use these results, a more efficient practice would be to embed WorkKeys assessments into the Career and Technical Education program in which a student is learning.

Lastly and most importantly, by eliminating this state requirement, we leave the use of the WorkKeys to the local districts. In those communities where businesses use these results, the local district can be responsive by administering the test. But for communities like ours where the results are used with much less frequency, the added instruction time would be a boon to our students.

For these reasons, Oakland Schools and our local superintendents, representing 28 communities in Oakland County, support House Bill 4162 and respectfully request that you hold a hearing and support the legislation. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Dr. Daveda Colbert, Superintendent of Oak Park Schools
President of Oakland County Superintendents Association

Cc: Representative John Reilly
The 28 local superintendents in Oakland County
Representatives Kathy Crawford, Padma Kuppa, and Brenda Carter, co-sponsors
Dr. Wanda Cook-Robinson, Superintendent of Oakland Schools