

## Eddie Sleeper

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**From:** Carol Finkelstein <carol.finkelstein@wbsd.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 13, 2019 1:19 PM  
**To:** Rep. Jim Lilly (District 89); Rep. Brandt Iden (District 61); Rep. Eric Leutheuser (District 58); Rep. Beth Griffin (District 66); Rep. Jason Wentworth (District 97); Rep. Bronna Kahle (District 57); Rep. Rebekah Warren (District 55); Rep. Wendell Byrd (District 3); Rep. Sheldon Neeley (District 34); Rep. Kevin Hertel (District 18); Rep. Roger Hauck (District 99)  
**Cc:** Eddie Sleeper  
**Subject:** Please Report HB 4162 As Soon As Possible

Dear Representatives Iden, Lilly, Leutheuser, Griffin, Hauck, Kahle, Wentworth, Warren, Byrd, Neeley and Hertel,

**I respectfully request that the House Ways and Means Committee report HB 4162 to the full House as soon as possible.**

House Bill 4162 eliminates the mandate that districts administer the ACT WorkKeys to high school students as part of the Michigan Merit Exam. This bill is important for our schools and students for several reasons:

- Eliminating WorkKeys would free up scarce school aid resources that are better used elsewhere. For FY 2018-19, MDE contracted for a one-year extension at a cost of \$4.4 million.
- Eliminating ACT WorkKeys would add *at least* one-half day of instruction.
- **Local control should determine whether this test is needed.**
  - ACT WorkKeys test results are used by employers in very few areas of the State.
  - Schools in areas with interested employers can continue to use the test.

As the parent of a 12<sup>th</sup> grade, college-bound, special education student I would like to share my personal experience on this subject. Last year my son took the Michigan Merit Examination, which consists of the SAT, M-Step Science & Social Studies and ACT WorkKeys. He receives accommodations through his Individualized Education Plan (IEP), with lengthy tests broken into smaller sections and 1.5 times allotted the test time.

Most students take SAT in 4 hours. My son had to have a special proctor so he could take the SAT one section at a time over 4 days. Then, all students to take M-Step Science and Social Studies – several more hours of testing. Again, for my son, each test was broken down into sections with 1.5 time allowed. All the mandated testing added up to days of lost instruction time.

I sought an exemption from the ACT WorkKeys because he was already overloaded with testing and WorkKeys provides zero benefit for his future. I was told that it is required by the State for him to graduate, period. The standard time for ACT WorkKeys is two hours and 45 minutes. With 1.5 time, my son lost an additional 4-plus hours of valuable instruction time to take a test that frankly does not benefit anyone - except ACT who makes millions of dollars selling it.

**To reiterate, please report HB 4162 as soon as possible. When the bill comes before you for a vote, I urge you to please vote yes.**

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Carol Finkelstein

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