



Brandon School District

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Dr. Matthew S. Outlaw
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House Bill 4501

Dear Chairman Kelly and members of the committee,

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important topic. I would especially like to thank the sponsor of this bill, Representative John Reilly and its co-sponsor Representative Crawford.

My name is Matt Outlaw and I am in my 4th year as the superintendent for the Brandon School District in Northwest Oakland County. Prior to my time as superintendent, I worked for 18 years at the high school level as a principal, building administrator and teacher. In each of these roles, I have had the opportunity to be part of the many changes in State testing and their impact on students. With this in mind, I would like to raise a few points on this topic:

- 1) The legislature has made it a priority to reduce the amount of testing for students with the goal of getting to 6 hours or less. I cannot tell you how appreciated this has been at the school level.
- 2) Students spend a half day each year taking the ACT Work Keys test. While I understand what the intent was when this test was first implemented, test results from the ACT Work Keys provides absolutely no valuable data to schools and has not been used in any way for the two decades that I have worked at the high school level. As has been reported, its value to the business community is also questionable and quickly diminishing.
- 3) As such, I strongly support this bill and would highlight the following as key benefits of its approval:
 - Eliminates a test that has almost no value to schools or its students
 - It gives a half day of teaching and learning back to schools
 - It saves resources that are needed for test administration such as proctors, table rentals and test coordination.
 - Ultimately, it helps to accomplish the legislature's goal of reducing the amount of testing required of our students.

In the end, this bill just makes sense which is why it is overwhelmingly supported by my colleagues, by the building administration, by teachers and by our families. While our district strongly supports the legislature's efforts to improve CTE education, the time for the Work Keys test has long since passed.

Thank you for this opportunity to share and for your consideration of this bill. Thank you all for your service.

Sincerely,

Matthew S. Outlaw

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Superintendent for the Brandon School District