
*Michigan PTA mobilizes the forces of school, home, and community in order
to ensure a quality education and nurturing environment for every child.*

Michigan PTA does not support House Bill 4192, and we urge you to reject this bill as written.

Michigan PTA strongly supports the retention of the College and Career Ready Standards that Michigan is currently utilizing. These standards set proficiency bench marks for elementary and secondary students. They are rigorous, objective, and further the inter-state continuity of standards, nationwide.

- ✓ Michigan's current standards are based on the Common Core State Standards that were voluntarily adopted by the Michigan State Board of Education in June of 2010. The Common Core State Standards were developed and published by the NGA (National Governors Association) CCSSO (Council of Chief State School Officers) and are **not** a federal curriculum or national standards. Michigan's college and career ready standards were voluntarily adopted by the state as benchmarks for what a student should know at a given grade. They are **not** curriculum-- which is the text, lesson plans and materials used to teach students to reach these benchmarks.
- ✓ Our teachers and school leaders agree that these standards are good for our students, and they want to continue the work they have started to teach our children using these standards. To ask them to once again change standards, curricula, and assessment methodology shows disrespect for educators and school administrators across the state.
- ✓ Is it truly the intent of this legislation to replace our current standards with the Massachusetts' standards from 2008-2009? Massachusetts' standards were recognized as deficient, specifically in regards to mathematics, during that time. This is one of the reasons Massachusetts readily adopted the common core state standards (CCSS). Since MA adopted the CCSS, it achieved and continues to have the highest academic achievement levels. Why would you suggest that Michigan adopt old, less rigorous standards that Massachusetts upgraded from? If anything, we should compare and contrast our current standards with their current standards, to ensure that we are providing the students of Michigan with a world class education.
- ✓ The assessment data accrued since 2014 provides a solid benchmark by which to measure the continued academic progress of our students, on an individualized and normalized basis. Abandoning these standards makes this data worthless. It forces our schools to create new benchmarks and invest more time and money, before the data can provide accurate assessments of student progress.

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- ✓ National standardized tests, including the ITBS, SAT, ACT, AP exams and more, are all aligned with the Common Core State Standards. By removing these standards from Michigan schools, we are creating an inherent disadvantage to all Michigan students who rely on these exams for assessment and college placement.
- ✓ Michigan's Career and College Ready Standards are true, internationally benchmarked standards and are better than any individual state standards that exist. Adherence to these standards over time will raise the level of knowledge in our state's workforce. Countries that have the most knowledgeable workforce have the strongest economic growth. We must dedicate ourselves to doing whatever is needed to assure that our children are prepared for college or careers both in or out of Michigan.

Michigan PTA has serious concerns about the wording of this bill in regards to removing duties from the State Board of Education that is provided to them by the State Constitution. It is the responsibility of the State Board of Education to adopt standards for Michigan's children. It is the responsibility of the State Department of Education to create and implement a state assessment system. The Michigan Legislature should not micromanage the work of our education agencies. Additionally, Michigan PTA finds the parent "opt out" language included in this legislation extremely troubling. Is this language a precursor to allow vouchers for private, religious or homeschool choice? If so, the Michigan PTA aligns with the National PTA position and oppose any private school choice system-vouchers, tax credits or deductions – that would divert public school resources. Instead of providing tools to leave the public school system, we should strengthen the existing public education system. Has the detriment to local school districts and the students they serve been considered? What is the basis or research that was performed to substantiate this language? Our children deserve better than cookie cutter language that is being passed on from state to state.

Michigan PTA believes that every child deserves a quality education regardless of their race, ethnicity or the zip code in which they reside. It is important that education reform remains bipartisan. However, true education reform will never exist until the WANTS of adults no longer overshadow the NEEDS of children. Our children deserve a quality education. As parents and child advocates, we ask that you to support our educators, our children and our state by continuing to support Michigan's currently adopted Career and College Ready Standards.