

HOUSE BILL NO. 5996

September 26, 2024, Introduced by Reps. Jaime Greene, Rigas, BeGole, Beson, Bierlein, Cavitt, Markkanen and Hoadley and referred to the Committee on Education.

A bill to amend 1976 PA 451, entitled
"The revised school code,"
by amending section 1278 (MCL 380.1278), as amended by 2016 PA 170.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1278. (1) In addition to the requirements for
2 accreditation under section 1280 specified in that section, if the
3 board of a school district wants all of the schools of the school
4 district to be accredited under section 1280, the board shall
5 provide to all pupils attending public school in the district a
6 core academic curriculum in compliance with subsection (3) in each

1 of the curricular areas specified in the state board recommended
2 model core academic curriculum content standards developed under
3 subsection (2). The state board model core academic curriculum
4 content standards ~~shall~~**must** encompass academic and cognitive
5 instruction only. For purposes of this section, the state board
6 model core academic curriculum content standards ~~shall~~**must** not
7 include attitudes, beliefs, or value systems that are not essential
8 in the legal, economic, and social structure of our society and to
9 the personal and social responsibility of citizens of our society.

10 (2) Recommended model core academic curriculum content
11 standards ~~shall~~**must** be developed and periodically updated by the
12 state board, ~~shall~~**must** be in the form of knowledge and skill
13 content standards that are recommended as state standards for
14 adoption by public schools in local curriculum formulation and
15 adoption, and ~~shall~~**must** be distributed to each school district in
16 the state. The recommended model core academic curriculum content
17 standards ~~shall~~**must** set forth desired learning objectives in math,
18 science, reading, history, geography, economics, American
19 government, and writing for all children at each stage of schooling
20 and be based upon the "Michigan K-12 Program Standards of Quality"
21 to ensure that high academic standards, academic skills, and
22 academic subject matters are built into the instructional goals of
23 all school districts for all children. The state board shall ~~ensure~~
24 **do all of the following with regard to the recommended model core**
25 **academic curriculum content standards described in this section:**

26 (a) **Ensure** that the recommended model core academic curriculum
27 content standards for history for grades 8 to 12 include learning
28 objectives concerning genocide, including, but not limited to, the
29 Holocaust and the Armenian Genocide. ~~The state board also shall~~

1 ensure

2 **(b) Ensure** that the state assessment program and the Michigan
3 merit examination are based on the state recommended model core
4 curriculum content standards, are testing only for proficiency in
5 basic and advanced academic skills and academic subject matter, and
6 are not used to measure pupils' values or attitudes.

7 **(c) Ensure that the recommended model core academic curriculum**
8 **content standards for reading and writing for grades K to 6 are**
9 **based on the science of reading, and include the use of**
10 **instructional methods and curriculum resources that use a code**
11 **emphasis approach to address the decoding and word recognition**
12 **components of reading and evidence-based instructional methods and**
13 **that include features of evidence-based interventions that are**
14 **grounded in the science of reading and the principles of structured**
15 **literacy.**

16 **(d) Ensure that the recommended model core academic curriculum**
17 **content standards for math for grades K to 5 include updated**
18 **standards as recommended by a committee of individuals composed of**
19 **at least 2 faculty members from the mathematics departments of 2**
20 **separate public universities in this state, and at least 2**
21 **elementary school mathematics teachers in this state whose average**
22 **classroom student academic proficiency level in math is at least**
23 **70% based on the most recent available state assessment results,**
24 **and whose classroom student population is composed of at least 25%**
25 **students who meet the income eligibility standards for federal free**
26 **and reduced-price lunch programs. The department shall establish**
27 **the committee described in this subdivision by not later than**
28 **January 1, 2025. The committee shall provide the updated**
29 **recommended model core academic curriculum content standards to the**

1 **state board by not later than June 30, 2025.**

2 (3) The board of each school district, considering academic
3 curricular objectives defined and recommended ~~pursuant to~~ **under**
4 subsection (2), shall do both of the following:

5 (a) Establish a core academic curriculum for its pupils at the
6 elementary, middle, and secondary school levels. The core academic
7 curriculum ~~shall~~ **must** define academic objectives to be achieved by
8 all pupils and ~~shall~~ **must** be based upon the school district's
9 educational mission, long-range pupil goals, and pupil performance
10 objectives. ~~The~~ **Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision, a**
11 core academic curriculum may vary from the model core academic
12 curriculum content standards recommended by the state board
13 ~~pursuant to~~ **under** subsection (2). **Beginning with the 2025-2026**
14 **school year, a core academic curriculum for reading and writing for**
15 **grades K to 6 must adhere to the science of reading standards**
16 **recommended by the state board under subsection (2)(c). Beginning**
17 **with the 2026-2027 school year, a core academic curriculum for**
18 **mathematics for grades K to 5 must adhere to the updated standards**
19 **recommended by the committee created in subsection (2)(d).**

20 (b) After consulting with teachers and school building
21 administrators, determine the aligned instructional program for
22 delivering the core academic curriculum and identify the courses
23 and programs in which the core academic curriculum will be taught.

24 (4) The board may supplement the core academic curriculum by
25 providing instruction through additional classes and programs.

26 (5) For all pupils, the subjects or courses, and the delivery
27 of those including special assistance, that constitute the
28 curriculum the pupils engage in ~~shall assure~~ **must ensure** the pupils
29 have a realistic opportunity to learn all subjects and courses

1 required by the district's core academic curriculum. A subject or
 2 course required by the core academic curriculum pursuant to
 3 subsection (3) ~~shall~~**must** be provided to all pupils in the school
 4 district by a school district, a consortium of school districts, or
 5 a consortium of 1 or more school districts and 1 or more
 6 intermediate school districts.

7 (6) To the extent practicable, the state board may adopt or
 8 develop academic objective-oriented high standards for knowledge
 9 and life skills, and a recommended core academic curriculum, for
 10 special education pupils for whom it may not be realistic or
 11 desirable to expect achievement of initial mastery of the state
 12 board recommended model core academic content standards objectives
 13 or of a high school diploma.

14 (7) The state board shall make available to all nonpublic
 15 schools in this state, as a resource for their consideration, the
 16 model core academic curriculum content standards developed for
 17 public schools pursuant to subsection (2) for the purpose of
 18 assisting the governing body of a nonpublic school in developing
 19 its core academic curriculum.

20 (8) Excluding special education pupils, pupils having a
 21 learning disability, and pupils with extenuating circumstances as
 22 determined by school officials, a pupil who does not score
 23 satisfactorily on the fourth or seventh grade state assessment
 24 program reading test ~~shall~~**must** be provided special assistance
 25 reasonably expected to enable the pupil to bring ~~his or her~~**the**
 26 **pupil's** reading skills to grade level within 12 months.

27 (9) Any course that would have been considered a nonessential
 28 elective course under Snyder v Charlotte School Dist, 421 Mich 517
 29 (1984), on April 13, 1990 ~~shall~~**must** continue to be offered to

1 resident pupils of nonpublic schools on a shared time basis.

2 (10) As used in this section: 7

3 (a) "Armenian Genocide", "genocide", and "Holocaust" mean
4 those terms as defined in section 1168.

5 (b) "Science of reading" means a cumulative and evolving body
6 of evidence whose research studies follow a scientific process of
7 inquiry and utilize scientific methods to help answer questions
8 related to reading development and issues related to reading and
9 writing derived from research from multiple fields of cognitive
10 psychology, communication sciences, developmental psychology,
11 education, special education, implementation science, linguistics,
12 and neuroscience.