



STATE OF MICHIGAN
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
LANSING

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State Board of Education Statement on House Bill 4822

The State Board of Education believes that reading at grade level is an important part of a student's successful education.

House Bill 4822 has the potential to aid the Michigan Department of Education, schools, administrators, teachers and parents in moving the needle forward on reading proficiency for the children in our state.

The current bill initiates many education strategies aimed at supporting and improving the necessary work for all Michigan children to read at grade level by the end of third grade. These positive strategies include: comprehensive core classroom reading instruction; early literacy coaches; reading intervention programs in grades K to 3; summer reading camps; diagnostic reading assessments; and recognition of developmental obstacles in reading.

While the State Board of Education is a strong supporter of these positive strategies, the board remains opposed to the concept of "Smart Promotion/Retention," which currently remains in the bill. While there are situations where retaining students in their current grade is warranted, that decision needs to be decided on case-by-case basis, between educators and parents. It should not be automatic.

Instead of requiring retention at the state level, the State Board of Education recommends requiring local districts to develop an enforceable local plan related to retention/promotion, which shall be approved by the Michigan Department of Education.

The State Board of Education urges members of the state Legislature to provide the supports and positive strategies to help all students read at grade level, without the mandate of grade retention that currently is written in House Bill 4822.

Adopted October 13, 2015

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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