

Legislative Analysis



ESTABLISH PILOT PROGRAM FOR STATE ASSESSMENT

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House Bill 4157 as reported from committee
Sponsor: Rep. Jaime Greene

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

House Bill 4158 as reported from committee
Sponsor: Rep. Jamie Thompson

Committee: Education and Workforce
Complete to 4-15-25

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4157 would amend the State School Aid Act to establish authorization for a pilot program for state-administered assessment systems and establish requirements for the pilot program and the piloted assessment systems.

Under the bill, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) would have to contract with one or more entities to provide two state-administered assessment systems via a pilot program. One assessment system would consist of three interim assessments that have a cumulative, summative score and would be used to track growth and progress toward state learning standards. The second system would consist of two interim assessments that focus on growth and one summative assessment that is used to track growth and progress toward state learning standards.

The following requirements would apply to a state-administered assessment system that is part of the pilot program:

- It must meet the requirements of federal law, including the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- It must align to state standards.
- It must have a sample pool of questions that address the same subject areas and concepts as the test items. The sample pool of questions would have to be available for review by the public, and would also have to ensure that students, parents, and teachers are provided with reports that convey individual student proficiency and growth on the assessment and that convey individual student domain-level performance in each subject area, including representative questions, and individual student performance in meeting state standards.
- It must be capable of providing reports that convey aggregate student proficiency and growth data by teacher, grade, school, and district, and MDE would be responsible for ensuring that students, parents, teachers, administrators, and community members are provided with those reports.
- It must ensure the capability of reporting the available data to support educator evaluations.
- It must provide reports containing individual student data to the districts within 14 days after completion of an assessment.

- Each of the interim assessments must not require more than one hour, on average, for an individual pupil to complete, and for the pilot program with a final summative assessment, that final assessment must not require more than three hours, on average, for an individual pupil to complete.

A district (which also refers to a public school academy in this context) could apply to enroll in one of the pilot programs, with MDE selecting up to 90 districts to participate. The department would have to ensure that, of the districts enrolled in the pilot programs, 1/3 are in a rural area, 1/3 are in a suburban area, and 1/3 are in an urban area, as determined by MDE.

MCL 388.1611 et seq. and proposed MCL 388.1704d

House Bill 4158 would amend the Revised School Code to revise provisions relating to state assessments that are part of the application process made to an authorizer to open or operate a public school academy (PSA, commonly known as charter schools), an urban high school academy, or a school of excellence. School operators are required to provide educational goals for their school as part of the application, with authorizers setting accountability measures for meeting those goals, with improved student academic progress being measured using the math and reading portions of the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP). The bill would allow a PSA enrolled in the pilot program to use the piloted assessment system instead of the M-STEP for purposes of measuring student progress.

MCL 380.502 et seq.

The bills are tie-barred to each other, which means that neither bill can take effect unless both bills are enacted.

BRIEF DISCUSSION:

According to sponsor testimony, the bills would allow MDE to seek out alternate models of testing that would measure student growth and also serve as a summative assessment (that is, measuring student progress during the school year while also providing an end-of-year data point to measure what a student learned in the applicable subject during the school year). Using this approach would hopefully reduce the emphasis on a single, high-pressure state assessment and instead spread out the time obligations related to testing.

Presently, the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress, or M-STEP, is the state's standardized assessment that has been approved under the requirements of ESSA. MDE would likely need to obtain the approval of the U.S. Department of Education before implementing a new standardized assessment intended to provide the student learning data required under federal law.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bills provide a \$100 GF/GP placeholder for MDE to implement a state-administered assessment system and administer two different pilot programs for the new assessment system. MDE has noted that they would anticipate significant costs to implement this program but are unable to provide an estimate at this time.

POSITIONS:

The Great Lakes Education Project Education Fund indicated support for the bills. (3-26-25)

The following entities indicated opposition to the bills (3-19-15):

- Michigan Department of Education
- Michigan League for Public Policy
- EdTrust Midwest

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